

New rules 'threaten care home closures'

Alexandra Frean on plans to ensure bigger rooms and better facilities

HUNDREDS of residential care homes for the elderly could be forced to close if national standards on room size and bathroom facilities are introduced.

In a survey of 400 independent care homes, 64 per cent of respondents said that they would be forced to close if the proposed standards, drawn up by the Centre for Policy on Ageing, became law.

Under the proposals, all single rooms must have no less than 10 sq m of useable space, but if a residential home changes hands, all single rooms must be extended to include an extra 2 sq m. Shared rooms will have to have 16 sq m of useable space. All newly registered homes will have to have en suite washing and toilet facilities.

Geoff Hodgson, editor of *Caring Times* magazine, which conducted the survey, said that smaller privately owned homes would be affected most by the changes. Owners of such homes often

planned to sell them on retirement and live off the proceeds but the imposition of the new standards would in many cases make it impossible to sell the homes as on-going business concerns as their rooms would be considered too small to meet the minimum requirements.

"Thousands of elderly could find themselves without beds in the short term if homes are forced to close. Thousands of jobs may be lost," Mr Hodgson said.

The survey follows the resignation last month of Sheila Scott, chief executive of the National Care Homes Association, from the advisory board of the Centre for Policy on Ageing in protest at the proposed standards, which she called "an unprecedented attack on the private sector".

The proposed standards are due to be discussed by John Hutton, the Health Minister, and the Centre for Policy on Ageing at a meeting later this month.

Viagra sales fail to take off in Ireland

IRISH men are either very virile or exceptionally shy, (Audrey Magee writes). Initial reports show that demand for Viagra, the anti-impotence drug, is far lower than expected in the country where it is made.

The drug became available to the Irish public at the end of September. But pharmacies across the country report few if any sales. O'Connells, one of Ireland's largest chain of retail pharmacies, has issued fewer than 100 prescriptions in Dub-

lin in the past three months. "We are very surprised. We thought the demand would be far stronger. But it appears not," said a spokeswoman.

Pfizer, the company that makes the drug in Ringaskiddy, Co Cork, declined yesterday to disclose their Irish sales figures but insisted that they were in line with expectations.

The Government had originally predicted that 18,000 Irishmen would want the drug, costing the exchequer around £20 million a year.



Tara Palmer-Tomkinson showing off her latest skiwear on the slopes at Klosters

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William misses royal ski holiday

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales began his annual skiing holiday at Klosters in the Swiss Alps yesterday, but with a depleted family party.

He was accompanied by his younger son, Prince Harry, but Prince William had elected to stay at home and is understood to be spending time with friends in Scotland. The 16-year-old Prince is a less enthusiastic skier than his father and younger brother, and dislikes the media attention the royal party inevitably attracts.

Zara Phillips, daughter of the Princess Royal, was to have been in the party but had to postpone her departure because of flu. She hopes to be well enough to join her uncle and cousin later.

The princes, who flew into Zurich on Sunday on a BAe 146 aircraft of the Royal Squadron, have been joined by their regular companion, Tiggy Legge-Bourke, the young prince's former nanny, and by Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, who appeared on the slopes yesterday to show off her designer ski wear to photographers. It included her trademark white "Tara" hat and a one-piece navy blue ski suit and jacket by designer Sam de Taran.

Miss Palmer-Tomkinson, whose parents are long-time skiing companions of the Prince and whose mother narrowly escaped death in the Klosters avalanche that killed one of the Prince's aides, also disclosed that she was wearing designer underwear by Agent Provocateur and several layers of cashmere cardigans.

Today the princes will, as in previous years, pose briefly on the slopes for an arranged photocall in the hope that cameramen will then leave them alone until they return to Britain on Sunday.

But media attention has already intruded on their holiday. A Swiss news magazine has put up a huge poster near the ski runs showing the Prince of Wales, apparently naked, peering over the top of a screen. The German caption translates as: "Not even the Prince of Wales can hide any secrets from us."

£5 coin honours Princess

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

SIXTEEN months after her death, the Princess of Wales has taken her place on a coin of the realm.

The new £5 commemorative coin, which is to be unveiled by the Royal Mint today, is the first of four official memorials to the Princess. It features an elegant portrait in profile by the distinguished sculptor David Cornell, and on the reverse is a portrait of the Queen.

Widely seen as the most simple and tasteful of the memorial schemes, the coin is described as a "Crown". More than 10 million, in various editions, are expected to be sold worldwide. Millions of pounds in profits will be used to fund the other official memorial projects, such as children's nursing teams, community awards for schoolchildren and the scaled-down memorial gardens near Kensington Palace.

The cupro-nickel alloy version of the coin is available from today from large post offices in a presentation folder for £9.95. The presentation packaging features previous



The £5 coin issued today

British Sculptors. His portrait of the Princess was chosen because it was the most elegant and simple of several designs submitted.

Today's release is not the first time that the Princess has featured in the "Crown" series of coins, which is now issued by the Royal Mint.

She had previously appeared with the Prince of Wales in 1981 in a coin to commemorate their wedding. That coin sold nearly 9 million copies, but at the then lower face value price of 25p, the equivalent of five shillings.

The obverse side of the latest £5 coin displays the portrait of the Queen which appears on all UK coins minted from January 1998. It was designed by the sculptor Ian Rank Broadley.

When the idea of a commemorative coin was first mooted, friends of the Princess noted she would have laughed at the irony of seeing herself sharing a coin with her former mother-in-law.

Last night the reality was deemed a fitting tribute by her brother Earl Spencer. Nettlink: www.royalmint.com

Straw joins Blair in holiday controversy

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Home Secretary is allowing his daughter to miss school for a family holiday, while their sister will be similarly late arriving at her primary school in Highbury.

Mrs Blair wrote to the respective head teachers before the family set off for their holiday in the Seychelles to explain that the children would miss the start of term today.

Jack Straw's daughter did not arrive for the first day of term yesterday because she was still on holiday abroad with her parents, according to fellow students at her school in Central London. The whereabouts of the Straw family could not be officially confirmed for security reasons.

At the weekend the Prime Minister was accused of undermining David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, who recently gave warning that pupils should not miss school for holidays in term-time. Mr

Blair's sons are expected to start term 24 hours late at the London Oratory today, while their sister will be similarly late arriving at her primary school in Highbury.

Mrs Blair wrote to the respective head teachers before the family set off for their holiday in the Seychelles to explain that the children would miss the start of term today.

David Hart, leader of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that Downing Street's response missed the point. "It is not up to parents merely to tell a school that they will be missing the first day of school," he said. "They have to ask. If they don't get permission from the head teacher, but still keep their child away, that is unauthorised absence."

David Willetts, the Shadow

Education Secretary, called for an explanation. "What is the truth? If permission for the boy's absence from school this week was not sought by Mrs Blair, as the headmaster, Mr McIntosh, claims, this raises very serious questions about the express information issued by the Downing Street spin-machine." John McIntosh, head of the London Oratory, was not available for comment on when the Blairs told him about their holiday arrangements — or whether he had approved the children's absence.

A Downing Street spokesman warned: "The children have a right to privacy and there is a serious danger here of intrusion. The specifics of the communication should be a matter between the family and the schools."

David Willetts, the Shadow

20% rise in prison suicides

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE number of prisoners who killed themselves in jails in England and Wales last year rose by more than a fifth to 83. The increase came as the total prison population rose by about 7 per cent to an average of 65,300.

Richard Tilt, the retiring Director-General of the Prison Service, said the suicide increase was partially caused by the growing numbers in jail. He added: "Not all suicides are preventable and there are no simple solutions, but it is clear that we have a long way to go in tackling a problem which is mirrored in outside society." In 1997, the suicide total at the 135 jails was 68.

The Howard League for Penal Reform said that nine of the dead were under 18.

Kidnap gang planned to bomb British targets

Officials were not told of arrests, reports Daniel McGrory. Photographs: Peter Nicholls

THE leader of the gang that kidnapped 16 Western tourists in Yemen had been planning to bomb British targets in Aden five days earlier.

Abu Hassan wanted to exchange the hostages for three bombers police arrested as they were about to launch simultaneous attacks at five locations, including the British Consulate. The three who were using fake British passports also planned to blow up the Anglican church and the Aden Hotel, where the surviving hostages were taken.

Scotland Yard detectives who arrived in Aden last night hope to discover more about the bombing operation, and the gun battle in which four hostages died, when they are allowed to question Hassan, who is being held in chains in a top security prison.

Yemeni security chiefs say the gaunt, bearded 28-year-old, was the leader of the three bombers, who were seized as they were priming devices in their room at the cheap, backstreet Al Wafa hotel. The three men, who included a 27-year-old Iranian, claimed to have arrived in Aden from London.

The list of targets found in room III included a clinic next door to Christ Church and the Royal Hotel, which is used by 35 American soldiers training Yemeni forces in mine clearance. In the cluttered bomb factory, police also discovered automatic weapons, grenades and black hoods with eye slits.

General Mohammed Saleh Turaik, head of security for the Aden area, said yesterday: "The men we arrested told us the targets Abu Hassan chose for bombing were very big. Many people would have been killed if he had succeeded. There would have been much more blood than in the kidnaping." He said the three did not know of the kidnap plot.

British diplomats in the re-



The brothers arrested with Abu Hassan, Ahmed, left, and Saad Mohammed Ali Atif

gion are furious that the Yemeni authorities did not tell them of the bomb plot, or the arrests. They would have warned tour groups to stay away from areas in the south east where Islamic groups are known to have camps. They also want to know why military escorts were withdrawn from tour convoys driving through the Shabwa and Abyan provinces, where Abu Hassan is seen holding the chains that bind his ankles. His captors say Hassan, who is unmarried, has shown no remorse and claim his only regret "was that he did not kill all his hostages".

Hassan, whose real name is Zain al-Abidin Abu Bakar al-Mehdar, faces execution by a shot in the back of the neck after a trial that General Turaik said could be over in 48 hours. The Scotland Yard detectives, who are working with ten FBI investigators, are anxious to interview Hassan, and two brothers who were captured with him, before such swift retribution can be carried out.

Last night, Hassan was be-

ing held at Zinjubar, 115 miles from where the hostages were kidnapped on December 28.

There is room for little more than a thin mattress and a blanket in his 6ft square, windowless cell.

In a series of photographs, acquired for The Times with the help of Yemeni security chiefs, Hassan is seen holding the chains that bind his ankles. His captors say Hassan, who is unmarried, has shown no remorse and claim his only regret "was that he did not kill all his hostages".

The brothers we caught could be students of bin Laden, but they are connected to Hassan. They were trained outside Yemen. Abu Hassan is a link to a bigger organisation," the general added.

Two of the bombers arrived at Al Wafa hotel in Aden's Crater market district on December 9, paying cash for their room and saying they had had come from London. They showed British passports,

planned and funded his Al-Jihad group.

There is no doubt there is a foreign influence to all this.

There could be a connection with Osama bin Laden, or someone else," General Turaik said, referring to the Saudi billionaire who is wanted for bombing American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania last year. Bin Laden has family links with Yemen, and in the past six months some of his fighters, forced out of Afghanistan and Sudan, have moved there.

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which hotel staff remember were the old fashioned type with hard blue covers; however, this was the first time they had been used.

Malek Mohsen Fadel, who is said by security sources to be a Yemeni, and Hanze Ali Said, a Pakistani, remained in Room III on the second floor for ten days until they were joined by an Iranian, Ahmed Sarmad, who was also travelling on a blue-covered, fake, British passport.

The three left the hotel the following day but checked back in on December 23 at 2.30am, in the same room. Two hours later, police arrived and showed hotel staff a photograph of the Iranian, whom they called Mohsen Galen. Staff led the armed officers to the room, where they are said to have found the men assembling bombs using plastic explosive stuffed into steel pipes.

One of the hotel employees, who helped police to search the room, said they found grenades hidden behind curtains, a small saw, a metal file, electrical wire, detonators, timers and the black hoods. There were leaflets about Islamic fundamentalist groups, including Hamas, and eight video cassettes. Police did not inform any of the targets on the bombers' list about their find.

Roger Bruggink, an Anglican priest at Christ Church in the Tawahi port area, said:

"We live with the awareness of the dangers and recognise there are different people with different ideas who will use violence to get their way."

Last year, a bomb was found in the church compound, which includes the Ras Morab clinic, built in 1996. Security was stepped up around the 19th century church and the already well fortified Consulate only after the kidnappings.

Yemeni officials believe that the intended targets of bombing

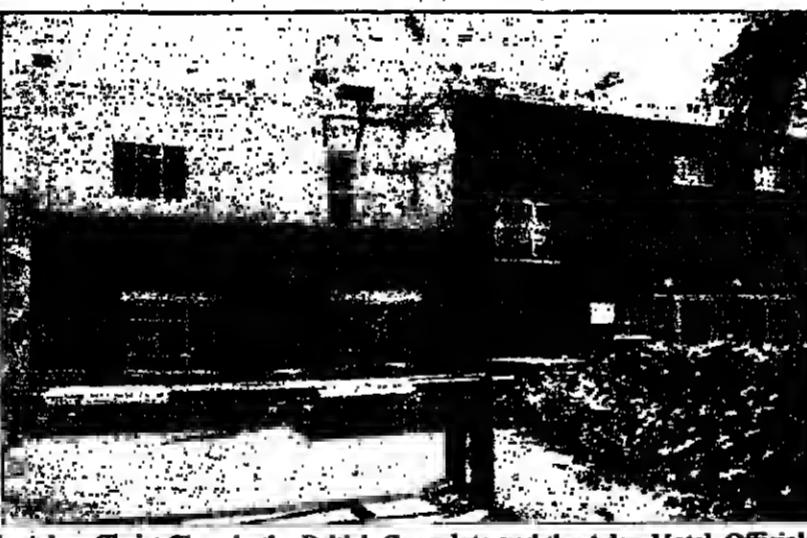
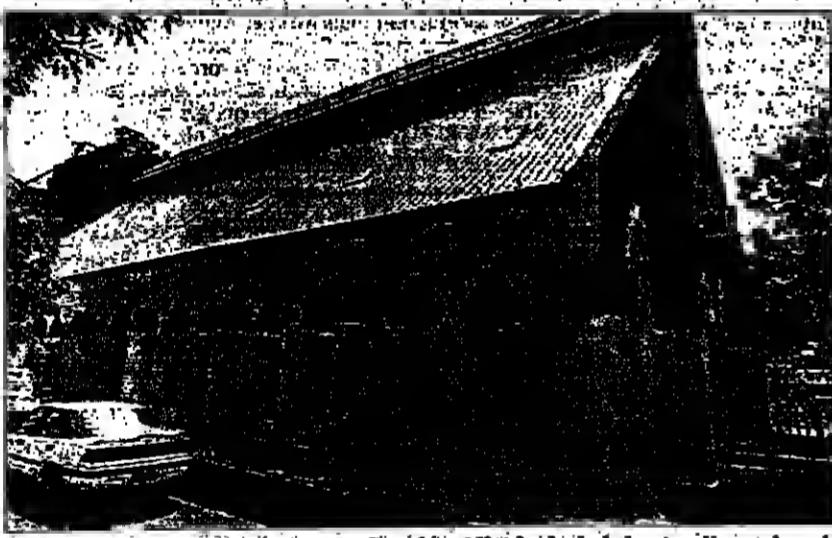


Abu Hassan, being held in chains, led the bomb plot and kidnap gangs, officials say

The brothers held in the same prison as Hassan, two more of the kidnap gang, also face the death penalty. Ahmed Mohammed Ali Atif and his younger brother, Saad Mohammed Ali Atif, are believed to have come from the same area as Hassan, Upper Aulqi in Shabwa.

Hassan's Al-Jihad group

are known to have funded their operations in part by armed robberies. They include an attack on a security van carrying nine million riyals (£50,000) in teachers' salaries. □ Yemen said yesterday it was abandoning its attempt to join the Commonwealth after the diplomatic row with Britain over the hostage killings.



Police said that targets on the bombers' list included the Anglican church in Aden, Christ Church, the British Consulate and the Aden Hotel. Officials failed to warn any of the targets after the would-be bombers were arrested

Workers offered jam tomorrow

By SUSIE STEINER

THE celebrated jam-maker to the Queen, Wilkin & Sons, is transferring control of the company to staff in a philanthropic move of which its founding father would have been proud.

The firm has supplied the Royal Household since the turn of the century from its renowned Tiptree fruit bushes. It is now preparing to give the workers — from fruit sorters to label stickers — the casting vote in major company decisions. The move is designed to protect the firm from predatory buyers after the last family member retires. The chairman, Peter Wilkin, 58, has no heirs; when he leaves, 10 years of family involvement will come to an end.

"There are no family members coming along, so when I shuffle off the scene what I wanted to avoid was someone snapping up the company, stripping the assets and throwing everything else away," Mr Wilkin said yesterday. "We

Suicide girl was afraid of bullies

By RUSSELL JENKINS

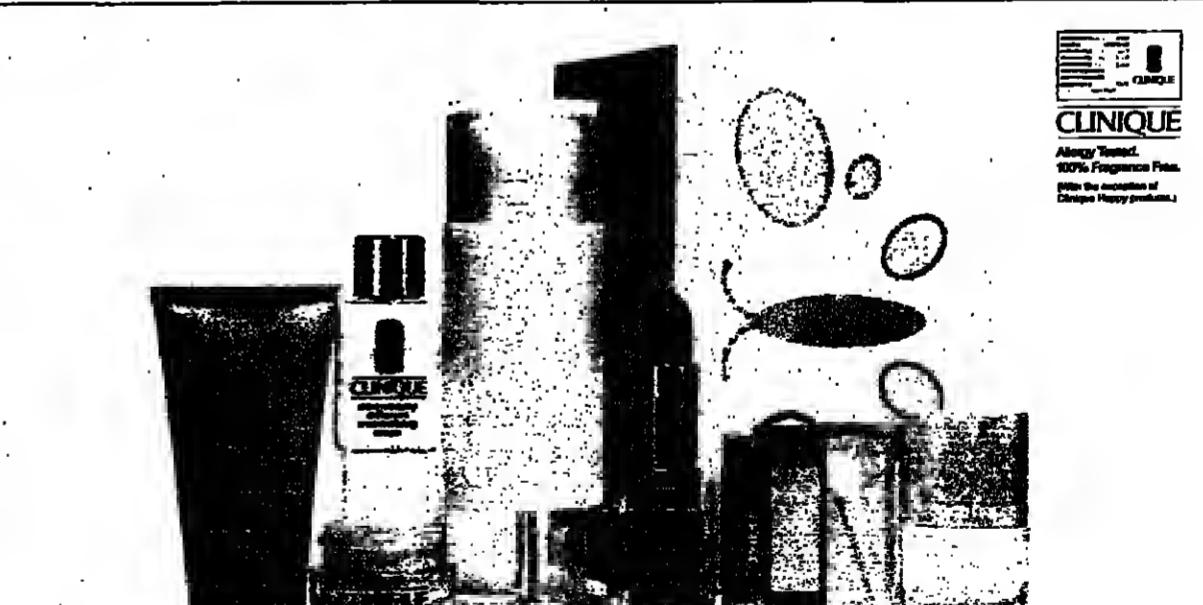
MARIE BENTHAM, the eight-year-old girl found hanged on Saturday, was frightened by school bullies, her family has revealed.

Karen Bentham, the girl's aunt, said: "Marie said she had been bullied at school and she did not want to go back. Her mum told her not to be so silly and Marie stormed off to bed. When she went to check on her later, she found her with skipping rope around her neck."

"She pulled it off and rang for an ambulance. The paramedics arrived and did their best, but Marie was pronounced dead at the hospital."

Both Marie and her younger sister, Gemma, were pupils at Moorfield Primary School, near their home in Irlam, Manchester. It is understood that Marie's mother, Debbie Bentham, did not raise the issue of school bullying when she spoke to police about her daughter's death. Greater

"In each case the circumstances were fully investigated and the local authority policy was followed to the letter. Neither of those instances involved anything out of the ordinary. They reflected the type of concerns that many parents raise during the course of the school year."



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Cocker pulps plans for Disco 2000

By ALEX O'CONNELL

JARVIS COCKER is clamping down on plans to use *Disco 2000* as the soundtrack to the millennium. The lead singer of Pulp has asked his record company, Island Records, to send notice to television producers who might have been planning to use the song.

Phill Savidge, of Savage & Best, the PR company that represents the band, said: "They don't want it to be used for various TV programmes about the millennium — they want to keep it a bit special."

"It's not that they're being precious. They had stopped playing it on tour but

now they have started performing it again at a few shows."

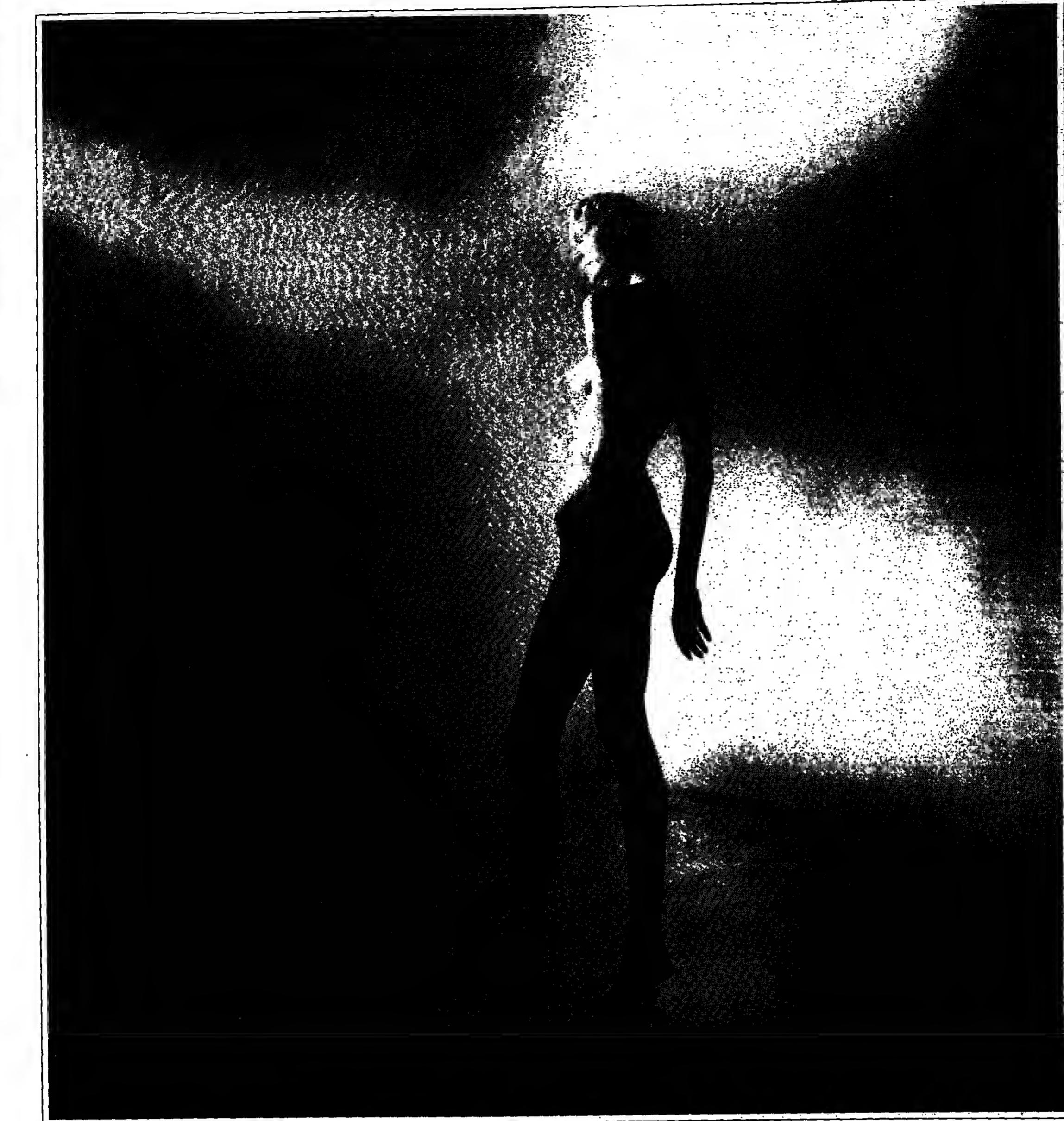
The song's chorus, "Let's all meet up in the year 2000/won't it be strange when we're all fully grown?", makes it a natural millennium soundtrack.

Mr Savidge, who acknowledged that bands could earn about £50,000 for the use of their music in a television advertisement, said: "Pulp are obviously making the decision that it will be more lucrative this way. The band might want to stop it being sold to TV now so that they can become multi-millionaires in the fu-

ture." He added that the single was now hard to obtain, but he did not rule out the possibility of the band repackaging and re-releasing it this year.

A spokesman for Channel 4 said: "It is certainly too early to tell if the track is going to be used. Any millennium programme would still be in production."

Kathryna Kelly, BBC spokesman for millennium programming, said that it would not matter if Cocker prevented use of the song. "It doesn't really make any difference to us. There is a lot of other music that would be relevant."



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Brown gave Whelan time to plot exit

By ROLAND WATSON
AND JILL SHERMAN

THE great irony about Charlie Whelan's departure is that it saw him following the advice of his arch-enemy, Peter Mandelson: "My fear is that drift is harming you," wrote the former Trade Secretary. "You need to implement a strategy to exit with enhanced position, strength and respect."

The words were not offered to Mr Whelan, but to his boss Gordon Brown nearly five years ago as Westminster waited to see whether he would run the campaign for John Smith as Labour leader. They form part of the memo that Mr Brown's camp has ever since labelled "the great betrayal", claiming that Mr Mandelson's offer of support was in stark contrast to his campaigning for Tony Blair.

But Mr Mandelson's "strategy to exit" for Mr Brown could just as well apply to Mr Whelan's announcement yesterday that he would be stepping down "at the appropriate time". His resignation followed a fortnight of mounting pressure which has seen the 44-year-old former communist accused of being — and denying that he was — the catalyst for the pre-Christmas resignations of Mr Mandelson and Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General.

He finally made up his mind to quit on Sunday during the train journey south from his holiday hideaway in the Highlands.

Mr Whelan, blamed by his Labour critics for putting his loyalty to Mr Brown above that for the Blair Government as a whole, realised that he would do his patron more harm than good by staying. He had spoken to the Chancellor on the Saturday evening to tell him so, and that he had all but resolved to go.

After arriving at King's Cross station on Sunday evening and travelling across the capital to his home in Peckham, southeast London, he

Spin doctor was victim of rivalry between Labour factions that many believed he instigated

again called the Chancellor and told him that he was reconciled to resigning. He sat down at his kitchen table to draft his resignation statement and arranged to meet Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's spokesman, the next morning to arrange the logistics of the announcement.

The formalities of yesterday, however, had been the result of weeks, if not months, of behind-the-scenes discussions between Mr Whelan and his boss, not to say the subject of speculation among ministers and gossip on the Westminster grapevine. Even before the disclosure of Mr Mandelson's home loan deal with Mr Robinson saw both of them leave their jobs. Mr Whelan and Mr Brown had talked about the possibility of him leaving.

Although his constant companion for the past five years and the man credited with helping to make Mr Brown the most popular post-war Chancellor, Mr Whelan's reputation was in danger of becoming as crumpled as one of his suits.

Those — including Mr Blair, whose attempts to have him sacked after the election failed — who claimed Mr Whelan's dark skills were best served to Opposition rather than government were soon claiming evidence.

Since early last year No 10 officials have been trying to tell their neighbour that his Spurs-supporting sidekick whose aggressive manner belied his past as the midfield engine of the First XI at Otershaw, a state school in Surrey, if not his role in *HMS Pina-*

fore and other school productions, was damaging the Chancellor.

Whether it was disclosing to a TV documentary that he did not always tell the whole truth, or being blamed as a chief source of the Gordon Brown biography that severely damaged relations between Nos 10 and 11, or briefing the press on his mobile phone from outside Whitehall's Red Lion pub about a shift in the Government's policy towards the single currency. Mr Whelan's often unguarded and always colourful manner has attracted critics. Each time his continued position was raised, but Mr Brown refused to fire someone who had become one of his closest friends.

But it was in November, when a newspaper briefing sourced to Mr Whelan threatened to re-open the wounds between Mr Brown and his boss, not to say the subject of speculation among ministers and gossip on the Westminster grapevine. Even before the disclosure of Mr Mandelson's home loan deal with Mr Robinson saw both of them leave their jobs. Mr Whelan and Mr Brown had talked about the possibility of him leaving.

In the immediate aftermath, Mr Brown encouraged his spin-doctor to lie low. According to Whitehall sources, he also indicated to Mr Blair that Mr Whelan, branded "a little oil" by one unnamed Downing Street official, would be gone before the return of the Commons next week.

What remained was for Mr Whelan to be allowed to plot his exit strategy.

As far back as last Tuesday senior ministers were talking up Mr Whelan's qualities. Late that day the Treasury suddenly put out a statement saying Mr Brown stood by his man.

There followed later in the week an explicit message from No 10 that not only was there no evidence against Mr Whelan for the Mandelson leak, but that Downing Street offi-



Charlie Whelan is surrounded by reporters as he arrives at the Treasury yesterday morning before announcing that he was about to quit



The young Whelan, left, in a play at Otershaw School

HOW THEY PLAYED MUSICAL CHAIRS

THE lives of a dozen ministers, MPs and advisers have been turned upside down by the events of recent weeks:

Peter Mandelson resigned as Trade and Industry Secretary over his £373,000 home loan from Geoffrey Robinson;

Mr Robinson resigned as Paymaster General after the disclosure but was going to quit anyway after attacks on his past business dealings;

Charlie Whelan, Gordon Brown's press secretary, is to leave his job;

Stephen Byers, former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, became Trade Secretary;

Alan Milburn, former Health Minister, joined the Cabinet as Chief Secretary;

John Denham, former Social Security Minister, promoted to Health Minister;

Stephen Timms moved up in Social Security Department. Hugh Bayley, former PPS to Health Secretary, became Social Security Minister;

Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to Treasury, becomes Paymaster General;

Barbara Roche, former Trade and Industry Minister, becomes Financial Secretary;

Michael Wills, MP for Swindon North, becomes junior Trade Minister (unpaid);

Ben Wegg-Prsser, Mr Mandelson's former special adviser, is out of a job;

Despite a move all but being announced by Downing Street, Geoff Hoon stays put in the Lord Chancellor's Department. Although Mr Hoon was lined up to replace Mr Robinson, Lord Irvine of Laird objected to losing him;

Red Dawn
rewarded for
her loyalty

It's now time for Brown to move on

RIDDLE ON POLITICS

GORDON BROWN no longer needs Charlie Whelan. Like the already departed Geoffrey Robinson, Mr Whelan belongs to Mr Brown's Prince Hal days. The roistering hand of lads ate pizzas, watched football and plotted a new economic strategy, albeit in the elegance of the Grosvenor House rather than the more lowly Boar's Head Tavern in Eastcheap.

That was fine for Opposition, but, in office, Mr Brown has outgrown this phase. So their resignations are a further chance for Mr Brown to develop a Chancellor, to demonstrate that he "has turned away from my former self" and "has that kept me company".

The danger is that Mr Brown will, instead, see the departures of Mr Whelan and Mr Robinson as a personal defeat and a victory for his enemies. So he may turn even more upon himself.

Mr Brown's main flaw is his factionalism, his preference for working with tight groups of advisers and long-term allies, and his suspicion of the motives

and actions of other Labour leaders. That fed the destructive rivalry with Peter Mandelson that has so sapped and divided the Blair Government. As so often, the real damage was often done by acolytes spreading rumours.

Mr Whelan was the ultimately loyal courtier, and, at times, court jester who defended and promoted his master in all the low fives frequented by the press. Often, it was his combative, rumbling style that stirred conspiracy stories more than any news he leaked; not least because, in contrast with Ed Balls, the Chancellor's economics adviser, he was generally on the outside of policymaking. So as Mr Whelan recognised in his statement yesterday, once he became the story, he lost much of his usefulness to Mr Brown.

The danger is that Mr Brown will, instead, see the departures of Mr Whelan and Mr Robinson as a personal defeat and a victory for his enemies. So he may turn even more upon himself.

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Chancellors. Mr Brown has the strong backing of his Prime Minister, even though Tony Blair is at times exasperated by his old friend. Over the past few days, Mr Blair has been insistent that nothing must be said or done to undermine Mr Brown.

One sign of Mr Brown's continuing influence is that one of his close allies, the talented former television producer Michael Wills, has been brought into Government as a junior minister.

Mr Whelan's departure offers the chance to clear the air after Peter Mandelson's resignation two weeks ago — and to find a more low key and conventional personal press officer. Mr Brown should recognise this rather than regard the Whelan/Robinson exit as a cause for further recriminations. Mr Whelan has served him well, at times too well. But it is time to move on from Prince Hal. Mr Brown is now a bigger man and should behave accordingly.

PETER RIDDLE

'Quite a catch' for the private sector

Carol Midgley looks at the career opportunities open to a man with inside knowledge of the Treasury

that would more than treble his £50,000 salary. His knowledge of the Chancellor and the Treasury would make him a valuable commodity, particularly for City consultants.

Lord Bell quashed early rumours that Mr Whelan was being lined up to work for his company, Bell Pottinger. "I have never met Charlie Whelan or even spoken to him," he said. "But he will find with real PR you have to work rather harder to get stories in the press than you do based in Whitehall. In politics, you don't have to sell stories, you have regular lobby briefings."

Experts predicted a deluge of job offers from public relations, lobbying and City firms

that I don't know... Charlie Whelan may be fantastically brilliant but what the press often describes as great spin-doctoring is no more than selling stories which would have sold anyway if they had just appeared on a screen."

One lobbyist, who asked not to be named, said: "Charlie has been very high profile and a lot of chief executives don't like hiring people whose name is more famous than the company's. But he has the gift of the gab and he will be in a top job pretty soon. He does swank a lot but he is incredibly loyal."

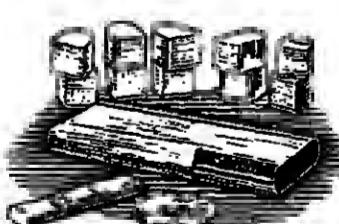
A financial commentator said Mr Whelan may set up his own consultancy as he

may be too 'larger than life' to fit into a big organisation.

Britain's most famous press manager, Max Clifford, predicted a financially rosy future for Mr Whelan. "Anybody who has been at the centre of government, in terms of policy ideas and activities, is hugely attractive, particularly to the City," he said. "By going into the private sector he could pick up £500,000 a year easily. You are aware of so much that other people would love to know about. Just think of a multinational company that is desperate to know how Gordon Brown is thinking."

One political consultant close to Mr Whelan, however, predicted he would follow in

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Hospitals put on alert as flu sweeps south

Wards are short of beds and staff, reports Elizabeth Judge

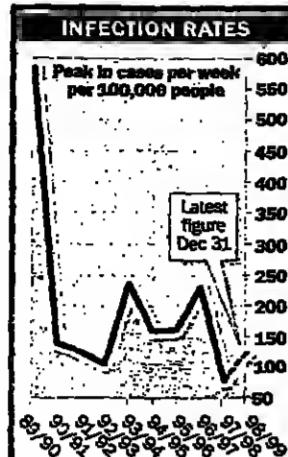
HOSPITALS are struggling to cope with sufferers of the two strains of flu moving south through the country. All but emergency admissions have been banned at some because beds have been filled by flu victims, or because of staff shortages caused by the illness. Ambulance services are also fighting to keep up with the surge in calls.

An appeal for help from student nurses was made by Royal Liverpool Hospital, where one elderly woman with flu fell from a trolley after waiting four hours to be seen. The pensioner had 30 stitches to her head and was put back on the trolley, where she waited another ten hours to be seen.

Steve Flanagan, a regional officer in Liverpool with the Royal College of Nursing, said: "There has been a 22 per cent increase in emergency admissions over the Christmas period because of the flu bug. To cope with this the hospital has opened additional wards." The hospital will be on red alert until Thursday.

Merseyside Regional Ambulance Service received 300 calls a day more than usual in the post-Christmas period, most for flu. A spokesman said: "We are sitting in corridors with the patients on our trolleys for up to three hours."

Flu was also causing severe problems in the West Midlands. A spokesman from Royal Wolverhampton Hospital said that ambulances were having to park and wait 15 minutes to drop off patients. "We normally have about 260 people in beds. That number



lack of staff because they are also falling ill with flu."

The hospital is postponing non-urgent surgery to make as many beds available as possible and does not expect to return to normal before the end of the month.

Bedford Hospital has been put on red alert after admitting 450 patients with flu and other illnesses in nine days. Two patients were cared for in operating theatres until beds in intensive care could be found. Red alert means that all scheduled admissions are cancelled, and only emergencies are admitted.

Staff at York District Hospital dealt with more than 200 flu patients at the weekend. Colin Watts, general manager, said that 32 operations were cancelled yesterday because 75 flu patients were taking up beds on surgery wards.

A spokesman for the London Ambulance Service said that compared with last year it had received double the number of calls on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

At Kingston Hospital, south-west London, three people had to be assessed by nurses in ambulances parked outside because the accident unit was so busy on Saturday.

John MacDonald, chief executive of the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford, said: "We have been very busy since Boxing Day. People have been waiting in accident and emergency for assessment and admission to a bed."

Leading article, page 17



A patient with flu symptoms booking an appointment at Northfield Health Centre, Birmingham. Sufferers are advised to drink plenty and go to bed

Devious little bug is hard to pin down

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ONLY an expert with a microscope can tell the difference between a cold and a flu, so a patient struck down by flu-like symptoms cannot know whether to expect a few days of sniffles or a few weeks in bed with pneumonia.

The flu virus is very infectious and easily transmitted by a sneeze or cough. It is especially prevalent over the holiday period because people mix more at seasonal parties, spreading the germs. Many people, however, are not even aware that they have been infected because they quickly develop an immunity to the virus.

The two flu strains behind this year's seasonal outbreak are the more dangerous A-strain or "Sydney flu", and the less severe B-strain or "Beijing flu". At present there are five cases of the Sydney flu for every three cases of the Beijing strain.



Influenza A viruses

If you succumb, go to bed and keep warm

A TROUBLESOME flu epidemic was expected this season, partly because flu is cyclical but also because there had been a disappointing take-up of flu injections available for those at most risk of complications.

Patients should take to their beds: remaining in an even, warm temperature is most important. Keeping away from others is also useful — colds and flu are most infectious in their early stages.

Antibiotics will not alleviate the initial viral symptoms, but they can be life-saving if secondary infection occurs.

Unless, of course, a patient is sent to hospital by a doctor, patients should not seek treatment there: they can catch other infections that make the illness more dangerous.

Sufferers should drink plenty of fluids — and, if adult, take aspirin to reduce their temperature and an over-the-counter cough remedy so that they can get some sleep. Those under 16 should not take aspirin but should use a paracetamol preparation. Sweet, syrupy drinks will help to counter dehydration.

Antibiotics will not alleviate the initial viral symptoms, but they can be life-saving if secondary infection occurs.

There is a case for giving immediate antibiotics to those who are particularly vulnerable — people with pre-existing heart, kidney or lung disease, those suffering from any immune disorder or taking ster-

oids, or with a history of meningitis.

Patients need to see a doctor urgently if the phlegm turns green or yellow, if they suffer breathlessness, and particularly if they develop a bluish complexion or become confused. Doctors never mind being called out to see the two most fragile groups, the very old and babies — or, of course, anyone else in whom flu seems to have become complicated.

Symptoms usually clear up within ten days although this year the effects have been rather more prolonged.

DR THOMAS STUTTARD

EASTERN

Influenza and related illnesses are putting great pressure on services. Demand on hospitals and ambulance services is rising and demands on staff are greater than last year. Ambulance services were under extreme pressure over Christmas. East Anglia ambulance had 360 emergency calls on some days compared with an average of 250. Ambulance demand is, however, decreasing and health officials hope the situation has peaked.



LONDON & SOUTH EAST

The south coast has not yet been badly affected but the flu is expected soon to put pressure on London hospitals. There is an increase in elderly patients being admitted with respiratory problems, many thought to be flu related. The biggest fear is the increasing number of staff falling ill, often the first to be affected and difficult to replace at this time of year. Health officials are monitoring the situation in the Midlands as it seems to be moving south.



NORTH WEST

Unprecedented demand last week on hospitals and ambulances from patients with viral infections including flu and pneumonia. Still busy but situation easing. Over Christmas Greater Manchester ambulance service and Mersey region handled 1,000 emergency calls a day, double usual workload. In some hospitals, admissions were 25 per cent higher than last year. One ambulance manager said it was the busiest Christmas he had seen in 30 years.



NORTHERN & YORKSHIRE

Hospitals and ambulances are still very busy and the situation is not easing. Because GPs are stretched to the limit and quoting six-hour waits, worried patients are calling ambulances instead. West Yorkshire ambulance service is dealing with 1,000 calls a day compared to the usual average of 500. Ambulance crews and managers are being called in on rest days. The St John Ambulance service is also helping with non-emergency cases.



SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND

No serious problems at the moment but health authorities are monitoring the situation. No significant reports of flu in any of these regions but there is the usual seasonal increase in respiratory illnesses which are often flu related. Northern Ireland has seen an increase in admissions with respiratory infections to acute hospitals over past few days, which is putting some extra pressure on hospitals.

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Third friend falls ill with meningitis

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A TEENAGER who lost two friends to meningitis is being treated in hospital for the same disease. The news came as research was launched to discover why cases of meningococcal disease have more than doubled among teenagers in five years.

The latest patient, Louise Salmon, 16, was in a stable condition at Barnsley District General Hospital, South Yorkshire. Her friends Claire Wilkinson, 14, and Adam Rawson, 15, died on New Year's Eve.

She is a former pupil at Wath Comprehensive School, near Rotherham, where all 1,750 pupils are being given antibiotics as a precautionary measure.

The stepmother of Miss Wilkinson is to write to the Prime Minister to complain that her treatment was delayed when she was transferred 40 miles to Nottingham because there was no room in the local intensive care unit.

Malcolm Bates, of Swinton, near Rotherham, said: "I do not want other parents to go through what Claire's mother and I have suffered. I am doing my grieving in private but I am making an anger public."

A 38-year-old woman with meningitis had to be flown by RAF helicopter from Birkenhead to North Tees General Hospital in Middlesbrough because there were no intensive care beds available in northwest England. Susan

Cairns was in a critical condition last night. In Poynton, Cheshire, friends of two teenagers who are thought to have contracted meningitis at a Christmas party are being vaccinated against the disease. In Gateshead, 2,500 pupils at two schools are being immunised after six pupils went down with the disease and a 12-year-old boy died.

The Meningitis Research Foundation is funding a two-year research programme, which begins this week, to try to find out why teenagers are at increased risk. The foundation said last night that cases of meningococcal disease — meningitis and septicaemia — had more than doubled among teenagers in five years. Researchers will compare blood samples taken from infected teenagers with those from healthy volunteers.

They want to know whether social factors such as smoking, kissing or drinking alcohol increase the risk. The research is being led by Robert Booy, lecturer in paediatrics at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, North London.

Jo Tully, the project co-ordinator, said: "The results will inform decisions about public health strategies and new vaccines."

The National Meningitis Trust has given warning that the disease is more prevalent at this time of year because it can be spread by coughs and sneezes. About 3,000 people contract meningitis each year, and about 300 die.

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Butlin's welcome awaited Cold War evacuees

A SECRET plan to send thousands of Americans to Butlin's holiday camps before evacuating them from Europe in the event of war with the Soviet Union has been revealed in documents released under the 30-year rule.

More than 30,000 American citizens were to be shipped to the US under Operation Whizzbang, an evacuation blueprint drawn up by British and American officials as tension with the USSR grew before the Berlin airlift in 1948.

About 10,000 Americans living in Britain were to leave on merchant ships and US Navy vessels within days of a conflict breaking out. A further 23,000 from continental Europe, though not occupied Germany, were planned to follow.

Holding camps for the European evacuees were to be set up in holiday resorts around Britain, with Butlin's camps at Pwllheli in North Wales and Ayr in Scotland earmarked to house 9,000 people.

Operation Whizzbang was first conceived by naval attachés at the US embassy in London to evacuate only those Americans living in Britain. It was later extended to cover northwest Europe after investigations found that a direct evacuation from France or the Netherlands would be impractical.

The proposal to use Butlin's camps came from R. K. Jago, a civil servant at the Ministry of Works, who suggested the idea to the top-secret Anglo-American group that developed the plans. Camps, he argued, would be more practical than hotels, which would prove hard to staff.

If the emergency arose during the summer months when the camps were open, there

Mark Henderson
on the holiday camp send-off arranged for 33,000 departing Americans

not told about Whizzbang until almost everything was in place, and FO officials complained to the Cabinet Office and the US Embassy about being kept in the dark.

Britain also warned Commodore Shelley, the US naval attaché, that any leak "could hardly fail to have a bad effect here and on Anglo-American relations".

London, home to 40 per cent of the Americans in Britain, was to be the "nerve centre" of the operation. Non-American dependents would have been eligible for evacuation, but able-bodied men would only have been allowed to leave once there was no more they could do to help to move out women, children and invalids.

America later tried to get Britain to agree to include 31,000 citizens from occupied Germany, but Britain felt this was impractical and asked for a French port to be considered.

[Mr Jago] felt the holiday camps would be ideal in that they were already equipped and arranged for catering for large numbers of people at one time, and would have the advantage that whole trainloads could be made up from one centre to go to any port."

The Ayr and Pwllheli sites were chosen for their proximity to the ports of Greenock and Liverpool. To cater for evacuation via Southampton and Plymouth, a list of smaller camps along the south coast that could hold another 13,000 was drawn up.

The plan was approved in the autumn, and the Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, was informed in December 1948. Details were kept "top secret", and British officials even vetoed the idea of involving the Republic of Ireland for fear of a leak. The Foreign Office was



Riverside romance: Abigail Wilkinson and David Wielders on their wedding day

Tourist marries her 'Crocodile Dundee' rescuer

By A CORRESPONDENT

A BACKPACKER from Birmingham has married her own "Crocodile Dundee" after he rescued her from a crocodile-infested river in the Australian outback.

Abigail Wilkinson's dramatic meeting with her husband-to-be, David Wielders, happened while she was on a canoeing trip at Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia. The 24-year-old lawyer capized her and Mr Wielders, a cattle station worker from Fremantle, saw her struggling towards the shore and pulled her to safety.

They were married four months later in the village of Humpty Doo before heading for Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory. They are now continuing their travels and hope to visit the Solomon Islands in the next couple of months.

Speaking yesterday from the family home in Solihull, West Midlands, Ms Wilkinson's father, Peter, said that

his daughter had telephoned him an hour before the wedding to get his blessing.

"I admit that it came as a bit of a shock," he said. "But she is a very sensible girl who has her head screwed on. She became disenchanted with her life in Birmingham and decided to do some travelling though she had no intention of getting married."

"She met David after tumbling into the water while she was canoeing. The last thing she saw before going under was a sign saying 'Beware of the Crocodiles'."

"Luckily her 'knight in shining armour', who was with a separate group, had seen what had happened and rescued her. It was love at first sight."

He added that his daughter had also fallen in love with Australia and he did not believe that she and her new husband would live in England.

Colonial attack on 'lazy' Jamaicans

By MARK HENDERSON

THE colonial governor of Jamaica during the Second World War condemned the Caribbean island's inhabitants as lazy, intolerable and unreasonable, according to a newly released document from 1940.

The scathing attack by Sir Arthur Richards, who singled out local politicians for particular abuse, was made in a letter to Lord Lloyd, the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The island was "a headache", Sir Arthur wrote, because "the Jamaican is so intractable and intolerable, with very few exceptions white or black. The Jamaican envies

Hospital shops pose drug risk

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MANY children with cancer run an extra, life-threatening risk by not having regular dental checks, researchers say.

Chemotherapy causes a range of mouth problems and cancer makes children more prone to dangerous infections. Research was carried out on 60 children with cancer aged between one and 14 being treated at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

The survey, published in *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, found abnormally high levels of tooth decay, with 21 needing urgent treatment and five others with some problems. All the children were reviewed and their teeth inspected at outpatient clinics.

The families and medical teams were reluctant to go outside the hospital service on which they had become reliant. Hospital dental services are largely limited to emergencies and extractions.

■ Dentists who treat at least three quarters of their patients on the NHS say they have greater job insecurity and less job satisfaction than colleagues who take on more private work, according to a British Dental Association poll.

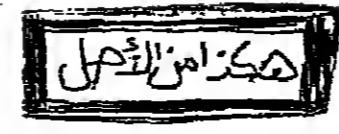
Fourteen of the 20 shops had sales policies in place, but only one shop had devised a robust system to restrict sales, Dr Somerfield said. Most of the policies could be overcome by the determined patient.

Dr Somerfield said the best policy would be to restrict all sales to staff carrying identification or, more simply, to prohibit medication sales entirely.

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Thousands at risk in siege by Unita forces

By SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS face starvation and death after the United Nations suspension of flights to parts of Angola.

The UN action, ordered after two of its aircraft were shot down, has sparked fears that Unita rebels intend to overrun towns held by the Government and sheltering hundreds of thousands of refugees. The Union for the Total Independence of Angola appears ready to sacrifice thousands of civilian lives in its attempts to take Huambo as well as Luena in the east and Kuito, which is under siege.

The UN aircraft were shot down near Huambo, in the centre of the country, which has been under heavy attack by Unita for the past few weeks. It emerged yesterday that the son of the missing



another 100,000 refugees who are in desperate need of food and medicines in Huambo. If we are unable to reach them, the chances are that they will perish."

Huambo is close to the headquarters of Dr Jonas Savimbi and his rebels at Andolo and Baiundo.

Unita, rearmed and retrained under the noses of the UN's observers since 1994 when Dr Savimbi pledged to demobilise his private army, has launched an offensive on a bewildering number of fronts.

Aided, according to security sources, by retired white South African generals acting as "mercenary consultants", Unita's fronts have closed in on Kuito and are starting to throw a noose round Luena. Cut off from ground supply lines by the rebels, hundreds of thousands of civilians face daily bombardment by Uni-

ta's long-range artillery and mortars. In 1993, Kuito was reduced to rubble during a six-month siege that killed thousands of people and resulted in international outrage.

Now that Unita has been blamed for shooting down two UN aircraft, it is clear that Dr Savimbi has lost interest entirely in making friends externally. Rather, he has opted to

frighten aid agencies out of the skies, which leaves the government troops and civilian populations at his mercy.

There have also been reports that his men have been

murdering priests, teachers, administration officials and other educated people in the east of the country in what one security source described as a "Pol Pot-style Year Zero".

John Wilkinson, left, the South African UN pilot missing in Angola, and his son Hilton, who is also missing

in the same area on Boxing Day.

An aid worker in Luanda said yesterday: "There are about 150,000 residents and

that the son of the missing

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Jennifer Turnbull first met her natural father when he was 71. Only her knowledge of the phenomenon of genetic sexual attraction enabled her to overcome his mixed emotions

Forbidden desires

I remember meeting my natural father for the first time at Gatwick airport: a few hours snatched between flights. It was a highly charged event, particularly as my wife was with him and I felt like the older woman in an affair. I wanted him to accept me and acknowledge that I was a successful person in my own right and that he had every reason to be proud of me even though he had no part in my upbringing. The second meeting, in

When Jennifer Turnbull met her natural father, she was shocked to discover that he was attracted to her

San Francisco, was a much more relaxed occasion. We had already sized each other mentally and physically, so I did not have the same feelings of anticipation. Since we would be alone, I planned to ask the questions I couldn't ask at our first meeting. I was told that "my friend" had already checked in

me up for adoption and who died before I could meet her?

He had booked two rooms in a hotel, in the centre of town. As I checked in I realised that the hotel staff thought that we were having a relationship. I was told that "my friend" had already checked in

and was directed to the room. A bay cruise followed by dinner outside the hotel did little to dispel the myth that something was afoot.

We were joking about this when my father, a 71-year-old doctor, said that he was sexually attracted to me. He then asked if I felt the same. I was shocked, disgusted and embarrassed that this man should be expressing such inappropriate feelings towards me. I managed to blurt out that I couldn't think of him in that way because he was my father. It was then that I remembered that the social worker had mentioned similar cases. There was even a name for this seemingly incestuous desire — genetic sexual attraction (GSA).

The rest of our meeting passed without event. We managed to salvage an amicable relationship, and never referred to the subject again.

A social worker later explained that for my natural father, my birth mother — with whom he had enjoyed a brief affair — was frozen in his memory as an attractive young woman. Meeting me was like seeing my birth mother again, with all the feelings that he had had for her at that time. But the explanation, sensible as it sounded, did not put me completely at ease. I needed to know if other people had similar experiences. I wondered whether I had inadvertently caused this to happen. I had been careful about my appearance, but that was all part of wanting to be accepted.

It is now recognised that many adopted people can have similar feelings about

either one or both parents, or about a birth brother or sister, when they meet for the first time. If someone wants to trace a relative and contacts an organisation such as the Post Adoption Centre, they will probably learn about it.

"It is impossible to get accurate figures but from people I have interviewed and the reactions I have had after talking on the subject, genetic sexual attraction seems to be very common," says Dr Maurice Greenberg, consultant psychiatrist and psychotherapist at University College London, and adviser to the Post Adoption Centre.

The experiences range from an intense sexualised feeling and wanting a relationship, to simply fancying their relative. It can happen between any combination of relatives, and can be heterosexual or homosexual.

One theory, he says, is that people are attracted to people similar to themselves. "People are often struck by how similar their long-lost relative is," Dr Greenberg says. "They comment on faces, manner, attitudes and, very commonly, smell. Many say that the reunion was like looking in a mirror."

This incest should be fairly common. Indeed, Dr Greenberg believes that there is "probably some sexualised behaviour in families, especially between siblings". Boredom, however, sets in well before such feelings can be consummated. The rarity of sexual relationships between relatives

may also be due to a strong incest taboo.

Despite the passionate and complex emotions involved, it is also rare for reunions to result in physical relationships. What remains for some time, however, is a magnetic pull, which resembles the excitement of falling in love.

While I did not share this experience when I met my father, I remember feeling as if I was out on a date. I wasn't physically attracted to him, but I wanted to impress. I wanted him to like me and yet I didn't want to touch or be touched.

How would Dr Greenberg react if one of his patients chose to embark on such a relationship? "I would try to take the morality out of the situation," he says. "If it is a parent-child relationship, I would point out that the parent was not fulfilling their parental duty by encouraging it. I would warn them of the dangers — the greatest likelihood is that it will end in tears, with a lot of pain and upset. I would discourage it but I wouldn't want to close the door so that they couldn't come back and talk."

Genetic sexual attraction is little discussed outside support groups and psychology research papers. The proximity to incest makes it a delicate subject to discuss and yet it has social, psychological and anthropological significance. Being aware of this phenomenon was without doubt the most important preparation I could have had for my reunion. Had I not known of it, I am sure that I would not have wanted to continue the relationship or, even the evening together.

Now, however, we remain on good terms, and I can finally learn about the father. I thought I would never know.

A new, safer substitute for HRT

IF THE medicine cabinet was to include all the useful drugs introduced in 1998, a bumper year for pharmaceutical research, it would be difficult to close its doors. Somewhere in the medicine chest there may well be Viagra, the hallmark drug of 1998, but it is a safe bet that the pale blue, diamond-shaped tablets will be buried away from prying eyes. If the master of the house has not had his potency confirmed with Viagra, the inquisitive may be tempted to search among the butter in the refrigerator for MUSE, the recently introduced intra-urethral pellet which is also a useful treatment for erectile dysfunction.

Researchers have not devoted all their efforts to male problems. One of the great advances in 1998 was the introduction of the first SERM. This is the rather unattractive acronym — selective oestrogen receptor modulator — used to describe a compound that produces some oestrogen-like effects but in other ways does not act as an oestrogen at all or, if it does, acts in a clinically insignificant way. Evista (raloxifene) is the first SERM and it is hoped that it will have many of the oestrogenic advantages of HRT without some of its major drawbacks.

The casualty rate from osteoporosis in the form of fractured hips, wrists or vertebrae

is unacceptably high and makes osteoporosis one of the leading killers. However, a MORI poll commissioned by Breakthrough Breast Cancer in September 1998 showed that women's foremost health anxiety was breast cancer. This fear prevented some women from taking HRT to the detriment of their bones, their hearts and their arteries (and, perhaps, too, to their intellect in old age, as there is a suggestion that low oestrogen levels are associated with an increased incidence of Alzheimer's).

The search has therefore been on for a preparation, an SERM, that would protect the bones and arteries but would not adversely affect the breasts. The initial trials of Evista showed that it increased bone density in between 60 and 70 per cent of users. The increased rate was slightly less than would be expected from the use of standard HRT but the risk of vertebral fracture was reduced by

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

troubled by cyclical vaginal bleeding.

There is no effective drug with no side-effects. An appreciable minority of patients taking Evista will notice some degree of hot flushes, and a much smaller number will have an increased incidence of leg cramps and puffy feet. A rare but more serious side-effect is the greater likelihood of clots and hence emboli from the veins.

The best news about this SERM is that, despite its oestrogenic effect on bone strengthening and cholesterol reduction, Evista seems to have no adverse effect on the breasts — in fact, much the contrary. At a conference just before Christmas, Professor Craig Jordan of the Northwestern University Medical School, Illinois, gave the results of treating 10,000 postmenopausal women with Evista for more than three years. There was a 63 per cent reduction in the incidence of newly diagnosed invasive breast cancers, and a 55 per cent overall reduction in both newly diagnosed invasive and non-invasive breast cancer.

ARTS

Richard Cork on Rachel Whiteread's controversial new exhibition
Pages 31-33

informative:

With effect from 5 January 1999, the following interest rates will apply:

Previous Rate New Rate

Overdraft Rate 16.40% 17.80% 16.50% 16.50%

Agreed overdraft for balances over £200

Premier Cheque Account

Previous Rate New Rate

Overdraft Rate 16.40% 17.80% 16.50% 16.50%

Agreed overdraft for balances up to £10,000

Facelift

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THE NEW DIET REVOLUTION

You'll never be fat again



SLIM FOREVER

In the second extract from his new book, **Dr Robert C. Atkins** reveals how dieters can eat fat, have second helpings and still lose weight

Our physical urges are hard to combat. Fighting the scales armed only with willpower and determination works, at best, for only five low-fat dieters out of 100. But the Atkins programme bypasses the need to rely on willpower — you'll be able to lose weight even while eating second and third helpings of traditional main courses.

This diet works for several reasons: first, it creates more fat mobilisation than any other regime. Sheer hunger is behind most diet failure, but a low-carbohydrate programme is not austere — the main austerity is the abandonment of sugar and such refined carbohydrates as white flour, but most people find that, once they shake off the sugar addiction, they feel no strong desire to go back to it.

Furthermore, this diet is healthy. I found this out when I first put patients on it 25 years ago, and they began to recover from a whole range of conditions, such as yeast infection, hypoglycaemia and food intolerances. Some people believe that the Atkins diet is bad for the heart — we all know that cream, butter and red meat causes heart attacks, and that these will make symptoms worse. But I'm a cardiologist by training, and have spent a lot of my life treating cardiac patients, and almost from the first moment that I began using the diet I saw the good effects it had on my patients.

Admittedly, some individuals are fat-sensitive and will develop a less favourable cholesterol level on a high-fat diet than on a low-fat diet. But there is a fixation on the idea that, if fat and cholesterol are eaten, cholesterol levels will surely rise. The consensus is that any fat must not amount to more than 30 per cent of our total intake. And if our most eminent scientists seem to be in accord, then we ordinary people must conclude that there is incontrovertible evidence that eating the amount of fat we as a nation do is harmful to our health. We cannot but accept that low-fat diets

and healthy diets are equivalents. But are they?

Certainly low-fat diets and satisfying diets aren't equivalents: fat has earned its high place in the cuisines of the world because of its satisfying taste, richness and capacity to satiate appetite. But the assertion that eating a significant percentage of fat in your diet will take you briskly down the road to heart disease and cancer is simplistic. Medical studies cast serious doubt on these claims. Population studies that show an association between high fat and heart disease are, simultaneously, studies showing

lines that extend from the side of the nose to the side of the mouth? Atkins dieters do not get that look.

Once you have completed the induction part of the Atkins plan, the next stage is the Ongoing Weight Loss (OWL) diet. On the former you were on the strictest level of low-carbohydrate dieting, consuming 15 to 20 grams of carbohydrate. The diet was extremely low to demonstrate lipolysis for everybody, from the person who can lose weight quite easily on almost any diet to the hardest case. This next stage is a somewhat more liberalised version of the diet. Here you will find out the most liberal level of carbohydrates you can consume but still continue taking off excess pounds — your critical carbohydrate level for losing (CCLL).

There are two ways to determine your CCCL. You can find the actual number by increasing the quantity of carbohydrate you eat beyond that one salad you ate on the Induction level. As you carry out this increase, measure the grams of carbohydrate in each of your additions. Eventually you'll reach a number at which you stop losing — your CCCL. Your CCCL will be 45 grams, or 32, or maybe 19. Above it, you lose no more, or you begin to gain. Below it, you're losing weight.

The other way to calculate your CCCL is to increase your carbohydrate consumption steadily until your weight loss becomes imperceptible. You'll see roughly how much salad and vegetables you're eating and, as long as you have a good eye for constant quantities, you'll be all right.

One warning: everyone hits plateaux, when 'no' weight comes off. The first few periods in which you fail to lose weight will most likely be plateaux and almost never represent the reaching of the CCCL.

To identify your CCCL, you must ascertain that you are neither losing pounds nor inches for several weeks.

(At a later stage of the diet, when you've lost almost all the desired weight, you pass from the Ongoing Weight Loss diet, through the important Pre-Maintenance phase, and go on to the Maintenance diet. At that point there will be another landmark level: your critical carbohydrate level for Maintenance will be the highest number of grams of carbohydrate you can consume without gaining back weight. For most now-slim Atkins dieters,



Increased exercise is essential if you want to remain slim and healthy

MEAL PLANNER IDEAS FOR THE ONGOING DIET

BREAKFAST

May include 90ml (3fl oz) of V-8 juice or tomato juice, 60g (2oz) onion rings pan-fried to a crisp, 1 slice of a 4-5g crispbread, 1 slice fresh orange (5mm/4 in thick) or garnish, 2 slices of buttered and toasted diet bread - 3 eggs, separated, 2 tbsp soured cream, 30g (1oz) melted butter, 40g (1.4oz) soy flour, 1lb5oz baking powder. Preheat oven to 180C/350F/Gas Mark 4. Combine yolks with ingredients. Beat egg whites until stiff, fold into mixture. Cook in buttered bread pan for 50 minutes. Store in fridge. (Total grams: 18.) Decaffeinated cappuccino.

LUNCH

Prawn and crabmeat or tuna mayonnaise in a fresh tomato or in a slice of avocado; pizza (using 4 pancakes; stack in 1oz cover stack with 1tbsp unsweetened tomato sauce, 45g (1.4oz) mozzarella cheese, sliced medium tomato and 30g (1.2oz) grated Parmesan cheese. Grill. Two servings, with carb. grams of 11.5 each; guacamole, chicken salad.

DINNER

Starters and soups: avocado cream soup (1 medium avocado, 470ml (17fl oz) whipping cream, 230ml (8fl oz) water, 1tsp celery salt, a small clove garlic, minced, 8 slices streaky bacon cooked crisp. Peel avocado and pit. Liquidise with cream, water, salt, and garlic. Cook over medium heat for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Garnish with bacon, guacamole. Main courses: poached salmon; fillet of sea bass with leeks and tomatoes; sauerkraut with a variety of cooked meats; beef stroganoff; coq au vin. Side dishes: broccoli fritatta, Brussels sprouts, crisped. Desserts: Fruit jelly; vanilla ice-cream; lemon mousse (all made with sugar substitute). Snacks: Swiss snack - 110g (4oz) Emmental cheese, cubed into eight; wrap each cube in a slice streaky bacon and deep-fry in very hot oil for 30 seconds. (Total grams: 4.1.)

METABOLIC RESISTANCE

NOT EVERYONE loses weight with the same ease, even when following a low-carbohydrate diet.

For people with high metabolic resistance — those who find it harder to lose weight — their critical carbohydrate level for losing (CCCL) will be 15 grams of carbohydrate a day or less, and rise to 25 to 40 grams on the Maintenance diet.

For average metabolic resistance, the CCCL is 15 to 40, and will rise to 40 to 60. For low metabolic resistance, the CCCL is 40 to 60, and the maintenance level 60 to 90. When the diet works too well,

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Tony takes a walk on the Wilde side

The Third Way has always led to ruin, says Michael Gove

The Third Way has claimed its third victim. Charlie Whelan, like Geoffrey Robinson and Peter Mandelson before him, has become a victim of Blairism.

The traditional approach to impropriety in high places, the First Way, exemplified by Peter Carrington after the Falklands invasion, was to admit wrongdoing and resign. The Second Way, being tried by Bill Clinton at the moment, is to deny the charge and then tough it out. The Third Way, we can now see, involves a vigorous denial of any impropriety. And then resignation. It transcends traditional boundaries, not of Right and Left, but right and wrong. Not since Christmas 2,000 years ago, we are asked to believe, has there been such a massacre of the innocents.

Peter and Geoffrey did nothing wrong, but they had to go. Charlie didn't tell anyone what Peter and Geoffrey did, and in any case it wasn't, of course, wrong. But he has to go. The only people who have done something wrong are the press. Why, one hears Mr Blair sigh on the Equator, don't they just go and...

Before, however, we succumb to the temptation to sympathise with the Prime Minister we should realise that he has no one to blame but himself.

Charlie Whelan may have been a wasting asset ever since he was filmed by Scottish Television boasting of how he misled the press. Nemesis may have been inevitable for the man who was, according to one No 10 source, "a little oil". But only a bad workman blames his tools.

The High Priest of the Third Way is himself at fault. For two things. His "project" is driven by calculation, not principle, and his Government in consequence operates at a court, not an enterprise.

The "project" to which Blairites refer, and which John Prescott treats with the same wary disdain as a long-clawed Japanese crab, is easily explained. The Blairite aim is the realignment of British politics. The "project" requires Labour to win a second term and involves the adoption of the euro, the re-engineering of the constitution and the absorption of the Liberal Democrats to create a natural "centre-left" majority on continental lines.

It is both ambitious and limited. It is ambitious in that it seeks to alter the political geography of Britain as comprehensively as any Sixties planner changed the geography of our cities. But it is limited in that it does not seek as Margaret Thatcher, Clement Attlee or even William Gladstone did with their huge majorities, to apply consistent ideological principle to the challenges of the age. It is about entrenching a clique's hold on power, not advancing policies for the nation.

Mr Blair is, of course, aware that he should have a philosophy, much as Oscar Wilde was aware that he needed a wife. He finds it hard to be passionate about the idea, but

michael.gove@the-times.co.uk

The Blair 'project' is simply a clique clinging to power

Just go to the library for a copy of Alison Weir's *Lancaster and York: The Wars of the Roses*. Its depiction of England under Henry VI uncannily prefigures Blair's Britain. Patronage is deployed by unscrupulous barons to develop their "affinities" of followers. A premium is placed on show, and the divisions between antagonists are all the more bitter for being ideologically obscure to onlookers. Gordon Brown moves from being Blair's best monetarist buddy to John Prescott's Keynesian ally with the inextricable ease of Warwick the Kingmaker switching from Lancastrian to Yorkist.

Lowlier ministers concentrate not on developing policies for the good of the people, but currying favour with a magnate to keep hold of office. How else can one explain the persistence in office of Alan Meale? This minister, who has made headlines with his freelance lobbying for curious businessmen, is in office only because of his friendship with John Prescott. The last restraint he may have seen off some Brownites, but how else, other than loyalty to the Chancellor, can one explain the continuation in office of Dawn Primarolo, or Doug Henderson?

The facile will say that Mr Whelan had to go because his personality obscured the message. But there is no message. There are only personalities, trying to find the Third Way to the Second Term. But without First Principles.

charlie.whelan@the-times.co.uk

respectable opinion makes it necessary. And so we have the Third Way. Oscar Wilde tried that, too, neither old bachelor nor new man but something quite novel. And we know where that ended.

The Third Way in foreign policy has meant neither wagging war to remove Saddam, nor constructive engagement with Iraq, but bombing him just enough to rally his people. It has meant neither ending arms exports, nor defending them, but combining their sale with lectures on ethics. Robin Cook is reduced to acting as though he were Mr Pecksniff turned pornographer.

At home it has meant neither privatising the Post Office, nor preserving its current value to the Treasury, but a spatchcock policy pithily summed up by a man called Balts as well, just that. It has led to a policy in Northern Ireland which leaves the Province neither wholly British nor really Irish. It is, instead, awash with armed thugs responsible last year for hundreds of unpunished mutilations. More Sicilian, perhaps.

At this absence of a clear philosophical lead, with something to believe in, Labour politicians have tried to find someone to believe in. Factions cluster around magnates for advancement.

If you want to understand the Blair Government there is no need to engage a lobbying firm staffed with former apparatchiks. Just go to the library for a copy of Alison Weir's *Lancaster and York: The Wars of the Roses*. Its depiction of England under Henry VI uncannily prefigures Blair's Britain. Patronage is deployed by unscrupulous barons to develop their "affinities" of followers. A premium is placed on show, and the divisions between antagonists are all the more bitter for being ideologically obscure to onlookers. Gordon Brown moves from being Blair's best monetarist buddy to John Prescott's Keynesian ally with the inextricable ease of Warwick the Kingmaker switching from Lancastrian to Yorkist.

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charlie.whelan@the-times.co.uk

It's a habit

SKIVING off school is spreading round the Cabinet table. Jack Straw has followed the PM's example by taking his offspring abroad during term time. Charlotte Straw (pictured left), daughter of the Home Secretary, is holidaying with her parents and brother in India, thus missing the first day of term at Pimlico School yesterday. As the three Blair babes return today from their sojourn in the Seychelles, I understand that Charlotte is not expected back for a week. "She's missed biology today and is still on holiday," I am informed. Charlotte, studying for A levels, is the younger sister to William — who on the previous Christmas Eve became our most famous teenager when he made the mistake of selling marijuana to an impressively built woman who turned out to be a tabloid investigator. This prompted dear papa to march William to the police.

The purpose of the family trip, along with Mrs Alice Straw, is to set young William off on the right track during his gap year. While William may have been diverted from the happy trail, I am sure young Charlotte's school career has not gone up in smoke. "There is a lack of understanding amongst parents and Cabinet Ministers," David Hart, a union boss, tells me. "Action needs to be taken."

NO great loss, Charlie Whelan. So say friends of Gordon Brown.



SO how did the midget formerly known as Prince spend new year? His important composition 1999 promised: "Two thousand zero, party over, oops, out of time / and tonight I'm gonna party like it's 1999." Instead, I am told: "Um, as far as I know he didn't really do anything New Year's Eve. Uh. no."

Soul mate

THE man who put ripe brie into cheesy, David Soul, is to take his

towering theatrical talent to the sunny boulevards of Branson, Soul, who played Hutch in the 1970s cop show that earned him a Mr Starsky, is to open at the Fridge, a bracing local nightclub.

In the front row will be one Antonio Fargas, alias Huggy Bear. He will not be alone. Martin Bell winsomely: "I had dinner with David last night and, work permitting, I'm planning to go along."

ROBERT CARLYLE'S Scottish burr has been translated for our Australian cousins. *Carlyle, leading trouser in The Full Monty*, was deemed incomprehensible in Look-

ing permission to turn stables at his new pad into guest rooms (hopefully, not full of water beds, Jacuzzis, floating bars). Locals grumble that Carlyle's plan is "not suitable" and will set an "unhealthy precedent": Carlyle's letter to Mole Valley council explained that "he has no interest in horses".

• JOHN PRESCOTT IS TO pully the House of Commons Christmas tree to promote green ways. Unkind souls tell me he has nicknamed the dead tree "Peter".

Clear enough?

KIRSTY WARK, the porcelain face of *Newswatch*, is the latest target of "crony-hunters". Ms Wark, (pictured), who sat on the panel which chose the Scottish parliament build-

ing, has been awarded £186,000 lottery bunt towards a three-part programme she is making about the project through her production company, Wark-Clemente. Willie Kenzie, chief executive of the Scottish Lib Dems, says: "It is up to her to make clear that there has been no financial gain. We need absolute transparency after recent events." Ms Wark says she declared her link immediately and that she has "no further involvement in the parliament".

JASPER GERARD

There are seven buttons on his desk phone," I am told. "Ed Balls is on there but there's never been a button marked Charlie." Perhaps the Chancellor called his spinner on his mobile. More discreet.

There are seven buttons on his desk phone," I am told. "Ed Balls is on there but there's never been a button marked Charlie." Perhaps the Chancellor called his spinner on his mobile. More discreet.

Clear enough?

KIRSTY WARK, the porcelain face of *Newswatch*, is the latest target of "crony-hunters". Ms Wark, (pictured), who sat on the panel which chose the Scottish parliament build-

Wake me up before you go, Gore

Irwin Stelzer on his American nightmare

The forecasters have had their say about the outlook for America in 1999, and we now await the inevitable revisions as reality intrudes. But some of you undoubtedly worry about the longer-term prospects for the world's only superpower. For those who like to think about that, I will share a recurrent nightmare.

It is 2001 and Al Gore is being sworn in as President of the United States after obliterating his Republican opponent. Indeed, so great is voter antipathy to those who believed that a perjurer should be removed from office, the Democrats gain control of both Houses of Congress.

Gore had promised to bring an end to "humankind's assault on the Earth". In his apocalyptic book *Earth in the Balance* he had made clear to the voters that, in his view: "We must change those features of our free market... economic philosophy that we know are flawed in light of the ecological destruction they legitimise even encourage." And change them he will. Gore immediately introduces legislation to tighten all environmental standards, even though told by his experts that the cost of compliance far exceed the benefits to be had from these regulations. American industry, saddled with a need to make billions of dollars of new investment, grumbles about becoming non-competitive, but has to comply.

The new President's antipathy to the internal combustion engine is a matter of record. He blames it for everything from the growth of the suburbs — he calls the process by which people find new homes "urban sprawl" — to dirty air; the latter despite the fact that cleaner cars and cleaner fuels have reduced auto pollution to lowest-ever levels. So it came as no surprise that he pushed up the price of petrol by three times. No longer can Americans casually decide to hop in their cars and visit granny, or afford a plane ticket to visit her if she has moved to the Sun Belt.

Gore's election campaign was funded in good part by the trade unions, which also provided the doorto-door ringers and foot-soldiers that turned out the blacks, Hispanics and trade union members that provided him with his margin of victory — just as they had turned the 1996 congressional elections into a triumph for the Democrats and Bill Clinton. The new Speaker of the House, Dick Gephardt, has long been the darling of the trade unions, and is their chosen instrument for getting their way.

Gephardt calls on Gore to present his legislative calendar. Top of the list is a restriction on the importation of any goods produced in countries in which average wages fall below those in the United States, and which do not adopt the stringent environmental regulations that Gore has imposed on American businesses. The effect would be more damaging to the world economy than the Smoot-Hawley tariff that produced the Great Depression; but Gore is beholden to the unions and in no position to deny them their wish.

The next visitor is Senator Edward Kennedy, who delivered to Gore the remnants of the Camelot constituency and the women's vote over which he holds sway, despite a personal history that suggests that his respect for the opposite sex is not total. Kennedy has long sought a major increase in the minimum wage, and a universal healthcare plan funded entirely by taxes on employers. Gore, never as comfortable with limited government and the so-called Third Way as his predecessor, immediately agrees to back that legislation.

And then there is the Hillary problem. With Bill Clinton safely ensconced as president of a Hollywood studio, where he will make full use of all its resources, Hillary now wants something to do until a seat on the Supreme Court or in the Senate opens up. Since Ted Kennedy isn't prepared to resign as Secretary-General of the United Nations to make room for Hillary, who now goes by the name Hillary Rodham, Gore parts her in his Cabinet, as Secretary of Health Education and Welfare.

Ms Rodham's first move is to seek an injunction against all fast-food shops, which have refused a compromise that would have allowed them to stay open if they converted to salad bars. She also declares caffeine a harmful drug, and bans the sale of coffee. This produces a run on Brazil's currency, which throws all of Latin America into recession.

Hillary then averages past insults by banning all cigars, whether used for smoking or for the less noble purpose to which her now-curtained husband put them.

That last act so personalises the nightmare — a world without cigars is hardly worth contemplating — that I wake up in a cold sweat. After all, it's only a dream. Or is it? Just which part seems implausible?

The author is a Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute.

comment@the-times.co.uk

1000-5000

Nake
up befo
you go.
Gore
train sch



STORMS AND TEACUPS

Drift is the real danger that Blair must avoid

The departure of Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's colourful but destructive press secretary, is not likely in itself to prove of enormous consequence to the direction and fortunes of the Government. His resignation is best seen as a postscript to the dramatic events surrounding the fall of Peter Mandelson rather than a political sensation in its own right. Gordon Brown is entitled to appoint someone he trusts to represent him before the media. It would be in the Chancellor's interests, however, if that person did not unleash so much aggression on other Cabinet members.

The combination of the Mandelson affair and Tony Blair's absence abroad has allowed three potentially dangerous perceptions to creep up on his administration. The first is that a picture of fratricide and faction, in many quarters exaggerated, has been placed before the electorate. The second is that the entire new Labour experiment is dependent on an extraordinarily small number of people, the most central of whom, Mr Mandelson, has now left office under a cloud. The third, and most lethal, implication is that the Prime Minister's cause has been so damaged by these events that the traditionalist branch of the Labour Party, led by John Prescott in an alliance with Mr Brown, is destined to become ascendant in the year to come.

The evidence for all three assertions is, for the moment at least, less than compelling. This Government certainly contains more than its fair share of abrasive personalities and tender egos. That is perhaps not surprising after two decades of opposition and in light of the modest challenge to ministers that the Conservatives can currently muster. Mr Whelan's demise offers the Prime Minister and Chancellor to draw a line under past feuds. Mr Mandelson, for all his talents, was still more closely associated with the presentation rather than the hard policy

aspects of Mr Blair's project. His support for the single currency and electoral reform might, if followed, have led the Prime Minister into truly precarious territory.

The sense that the balance within the Cabinet may have altered and that the modernising camp within the Government has faltered is not one that the Prime Minister can let fester. Once again the sentiment sits on slim foundations. It is based on little more than a single, largely innocuous, interview with John Prescott in which some praise was offered for both John Maynard Keynes and the Chancellor.

Nevertheless, there is the more tangible fear that, as the economy slows and mid-term apathy approaches, Mr Blair's resolve to press ahead with radical reforms in education and the welfare state might encounter enhanced resistance. The temptation to drop, to dilute or to defer these measures to an already somewhat cluttered second term may become overpowering.

The most appealing aspect of new Labour, a willingness to entertain the idea that the proper role of the State is to do something less rather more effectively, may be smothered by what has always been its least attractive trait: an obsession with its popularity as measured by poll ratings.

It would be faintly ludicrous to suggest that Government with a majority of 180 in the House of Commons and huge public support still behind it needs anything as dramatic as a relaunch. But the Prime Minister's low profile over the past two weeks, though understandable, has allowed uncertainty to creep into Westminster and Whitehall. If that ambiguity becomes drift and inertia, Mr Blair will have missed an important opportunity. This momentum cannot necessarily be recaptured at some convenient future moment. The Prime Minister needs to spend the next few weeks at home reassessing his personal political agenda.

PITY PAKISTAN

A wretched mess of intolerance, killings and corruption

The massacre of at least 16 Shia Pakistanis at prayer in a mosque in the Punjab city of Multan is another grim example of the religious fanaticism that is destroying government and society in Pakistan. The Sunni gunmen sprayed worshippers with bullets as they were listening to a sermon. This was a brutal response to the special anti-terrorism court, set up only two weeks ago, which has already sentenced to death 14 Sunni and Shia extremists for sectarian murders. Religious vendettas between the Sunni majority and the Shia Muslims who form a fifth of the population have claimed hundreds of lives in the past two years. But they are only one aspect of a deadly combination of lawlessness, intimidation, assassinations and corruption that has already brought this unhappy country close to political and economic collapse.

Pakistan will look in vain to their Government to end these horrors. In addition to the sectarian conflict that affects most Muslim countries, Pakistan also suffers from the debilitating violence in Karachi between the Muttahida Muslim Movement (MQM), the organisation representing Muslims who immigrated from India after partition, and the indigenous population. The violence, which has killed most commercial initiative in this former centre of trade, is now spilling beyond city and into all local politics. It finds an echo in the clashes to the north, where heavily armed refugees from the war in Afghanistan have exacerbated tribal divisions.

Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, has promised to crack down on terrorism. But he shows neither the will nor capacity to do so. He himself has only just escaped assassination, when a bomb exploded

under a bridge on the road to his family farm. As usual, the finger has been pointed at Indian intelligence agents; more likely perpetrators are MQM militants and political enemies who are locked in a bitter struggle with Mr Sharif.

In many ways the Prime Minister is in an enviable position. He has an overwhelming parliamentary majority. He has won the power struggle with the former President and with Pakistan's judiciary, emerging with a stronger hand than any previous democratically elected leader. The political opposition is discredited by the allegations of corruption levelled at Benazir Bhutto, her family and her cronies. But he has thrown away his advantage. He has done little to liberalise the economy, reform the country's political institutions or crack down on corruption. He has shown himself to be as venal and opportunist as most politicians. And, he appears greedy for absolute power with little idea of how to use it for Pakistan's advantage.

There is an illusion in Pakistan that because it has exploded a nuclear bomb, it commands world respect. Pakistanis believe that they will be hailed out of their largely self-made economic mess because of their strategic and political importance. In fact, the resort to nuclear testing, just like Mr Sharif's embrace of an ever more rigid Islamisation, is a populist attempt to hide the failings of his rule. Both may bring short-lived popularity. But the costs — a cut in foreign aid and growing religious intolerance — are weighing heavily on the population. The weekend upsurge of violence should be a warning to the lacklustre Government to tackle the country's enormous underlying problems.

THE PRE-MILLENNIUM BUG

Flu is best treated at home not in hospital

If life were a game of Monopoly, there would be a space marked Bed, and a Chance card, giving strict instructions: "You have flu. Move directly to bed. Do not pass Go. Do not go to hospital. Miss three goes." Sadly, many people who have been struck down by the current flu virus still need to be given such simple advice.

Feverish, coughing and spluttering, they have made their way to doctors' surgeries or hospitals — some by ambulance — where they languish for hours, passing their illness on, only to be told that there is no magical cure. For most people, the best cure is simple: take a hot, sweet drink, find a good book or programme and go to bed.

Although the earliest description of an influenza epidemic was recorded in 1610, the term was first widely used in 1743 to describe what the *London Magazine* called a "contagious distemper" raging in Italy. Lord Chesterfield told his son that influenza is "a little fever, of which scarcely anyone dies; and it generally goes off with little looseness". A century and a half later, an estimated 20 million died in the 1918 outbreak of Spanish influenza, which ranks with the Black Death as the one of the severest outbreaks of disease ever. Today, however, thanks in part to vaccinations, Lord Chesterfield's advice holds. Those most at risk are infants and the elderly, especially if they are suffering from bronchitis, pneumonia or other debilitating disorders. If they are swamped by less

deserving cases, surgeries and emergency wards might well be unable to provide this vulnerable group with the care and attention they need.

Despite the best efforts of hypochondriacs, the current outbreak of H3N2 Sydney flu is nowhere near epidemic proportions. To be classified as an "epidemic", more than 400 cases of flu per 100,000 people need to be recorded a week — five times the current level of those who have caught this pre-millennium bug. But some hospitals are already straining to cope, even though the Government is spending an extra £20 million to help to tide the NHS through any winter crisis. Patients are being treated in ambulances and serious cases shipped across the country in search of a bed. Yet lack of beds disguises the real problem. Even if there were more beds, there would not be the nurses needed to look after those resting in them.

Like teaching, nursing is a profession suffering from a recruitment and retention crisis. The exodus of qualified nurses, many of whom are being lured into the private sector by higher salaries, is putting an increasing number of hospitals — particularly their intensive care units — under immense strain. There are, overall, 8,000 nursing vacancies and, for the first time, spaces on nurses' training courses. Until the image and pay structure of nursing is overhauled, this problem — unlike Sydney flu — will not disappear.

UK candidates for Brussels posts

From Sir Roy Denman

Sir, Well before the end of this year the Government will need to decide who should be the two next British members of the European Commission. The assumption in Brussels is that Neil Kinnock will remain for a well merited second term and that Sir Leon Brittan, after 11 years, will step down.

The successor to Sir Leon could normally have been expected to be a Conservative. But the policy towards Europe recently adopted by the Conservative Party is to oppose not only British membership of the single currency for at least the next eight years but any of the further economic and political integration which will inexorably follow the euro.

Thus to send a Conservative as a European Commissioner would be tantamount to selecting a member of a league of atheists to fill the vacancy for a bishop.

Surely the sensible solution would be to appoint a leading member of the party which has for many years supported European integration. Either Paddy Ashdown or Menzies Campbell has the ability and the knowledge of European questions to make a first-class commissioner.

Yours faithfully,
ROY DENMAN
(Director-General for External Affairs, EEC Commission, 1977-82,
26 St Luke's Street, SW3 3RP.
January 3.

Launch of the euro

From Mr Stan Snowdon

Sir, The negative views expressed about the euro by Sir John Craven and others (letter, January 1) are understandable, but I am surprised to note that the Executive Director of the Federation of Small Businesses is among the signatories. Multinational trading conglomerates will benefit least from joining the euro. The real beneficiaries, in my view, will be small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

If we entered euroland our SMEs would enjoy access to longer-term finance at lower interest rates, as do our European competitors. This would help to lower overheads, increase competitiveness and extend the survival rate of SMEs. At present the survival rate is three years for 53 per cent of SMEs in the North West region.

Your correspondents also point out that we have the fifth largest trading economy in the world. However, and despite the fact that we also have the lowest rates of corporation tax, our living standards are among the lowest in Europe.

What is right for Europe will be good for Britain too.

Yours faithfully,
STAN SNOWDON
(Managing Director,
Staffordshire Giftware Ltd.,
84 Belgrave Avenue,
Congleton, Cheshire CW12 1HT.
January 2.

From Mr Bill Cash, MP
for Stone (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article of January 2, "A German Europe", states that Germany has now abandoned her previous "conciliatory EU posture".

It was always a posture, as I indicated in my pamphlet, *British and German National Interests*, published by the European Foundation last September.

The single currency and EMU came about through the Maastricht treaty, which I warned John Major, at the time, would create an undemocratic and German Europe. He and his Cabinet allowed EMU to go ahead, in a protocol to the treaty. EMU is expressed as "irrevocable". So too, therefore, is political union, for the two are inseparable.

It falls, as ever, to the British people to redeem this disastrous situation by a "no" vote in the referendum.

Yours faithfully,
BILL CASH
(Chairman,
The European Foundation,
61 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HZ.
January 3.

From Dr Philip E. Roe

Sir, Why is the euro the size that it is? It is too large to function as the only unit since many things can be bought for less. But if it is divided into 100 cents the cent is too small and will not buy anything. The ideal size of a monetary unit is surely the smallest amount anyone would bother with — about 2p.

The inventors of that other inconvenient continental unit, the metre, just too long for a stride, based it on the circumference of the Earth. Does anything in nature correspond to 70p?

Yours etc.
PHILIP ROE
157 Verulam Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 4DW,
philip.e.roe@btconnect.com

From Mr John Gibbs

Sir, "Euroland" is English (report, January 4). Well, well. How did they tell? There was I thinking it was German.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GIBBS
14 Queen Street, Maesteg CF34 9YN.
January 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

The spirit of optimism in our 'moral wasteland'

From Mr Charles T. Ross

Sir, David Selbourne cheers up the new year by railing on our consciences at the widespread cynicism which he thinks is causing our civilisation to descend into the abyss (article, extract, "Our moral wasteland", December 30).

No one can be complacent about the failures in our society which he lists, but Jeremiads all seem to compare today's inadequacies with some mythical lost paradise of yesteryear. Take his first point about the way some old people are regarded as commodities by private care homes: this compares, not so much with a past in which every elderly couple lived in the bosom of a caring, loving, extended family, but with the terror, even in living memory, of the workhouse.

He cites the number of arson attacks on schools. Fifty years ago some 20 per cent of our children received a reasonable education — now, perhaps 70 per cent do. Of course, this is not good enough, but we should ask ourselves what sort of experience encourages youngsters to try and burn down their schools?

The big shock horror is "the moral quagmire" of our divorce rate. Perhaps this level of failure should encourage us to reflect on the culture of how people are encouraged to select their partners in the first place. What might these statistics indicate about the experience of couples who for centuries were forced to live with their mistakes? Selbourne pines for the nuclear family — yet looks at the weight of evidence of the stress this can cause.

In the extract you have published Selbourne offers no solutions to what he calls "moral evasion". But there is hope. In this century we have achieved universal suffrage — so we begin to influence how we are governed; deference to a static hereditary system is on the wane. We have

created the welfare state. The National Health Service may have its faults but it is a beacon of civilisation. More than half the population have jobs that give them genuine satisfaction and the percentage rises annually.

Of course there are problems, there always will be, and there is much to be done, but we go into the new millennium better fed, in better health, better clothed and housed, less superstitious and better educated to enjoy our knowledge, art and culture.

We may not do it in the name of religion, but our community is increasingly tolerant, generous and compassionate.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES T. ROSS,
Mulberry House, 8 Mount Road,
Lansdown, Bath BA1 5PW.
January 1.

From Mrs Mary C. Smith

Sir, David Selbourne has given us all a salutary warning. We have switched off the engine and are freewheeling into what may be fast becoming an amoral society. What else do we expect when the Christian religion has largely been thrown out of schools and the vast majority of homes?

The Christian Church has become apologetic concerning its belief, and is, in some areas of life, trying to dispense with morality altogether, blurring the divide between right and wrong.

Yours sincerely,
MARY C. SMITH,
54 Eastern Road, N2 9LA.
December 31.

From Mrs E. Wheeler

Sir, "Our moral wasteland" certainly made for thought-provoking reading. It did not surprise me that most of the quotes used by David Selbourne came from *The Guardian*. I was a devoted reader of that paper for many years until I could no longer bear the dark, debilitating cynicism which began to fill its pages. On every moral issue it took the so-called "forward-looking" trendy view.

But where did the second largest source of quotes come from? From *The Times*. Does this give you food for thought? You cannot condemn moral cynicism and social confusion and then give inches of column space to those who perpetrate them. Where will you make your stand?

Yours faithfully,
E. WHEELER,
5 Goodwood Close,
Waterlooville, Hampshire PO8 8BG.
1005312573@compuserve.com
December 30.

Balliol protest

From Professor Emeritus W. L. Gage

Sir, Your Balliol correspondent Kate Adkinson (letter, December 30) complains not of the principle of some student contribution, but of the timing of the payment.

The danger of the deferred graduation tax which she proposes is that students may fail to respect the assets or the cost-control procedures of their university. They may not see themselves as stakeholders.

Yours faithfully,
BILL GAGE,
35 St Lawrence Drive,
Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2RW.
December 30.

Golden years

From Mr John Pullan

Sir, As I am retired and on the doorstep of drawing my old-age pension I protest at the prospect of being called a "senior" (letters, December 28 and 31).

If you are young, you are young. If you are middle-aged, you are middle-aged. If you are old, no euphemism can alter the fact.

How you feel is quite different.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PULLAN,
32 Watling Road,
Barn Green, Birmingham B45 8HT.
jpullan99@aol.com
January 1.

The strain of the train

From Dr J. R. C. West

Sir, Mr M. R. K. Holden (letter, December 30) asks for a new slogan for British Rail in the light of "the appalling conditions many customers now endure".

After two very substandard trips to Cornwall by Great Western in August I wrote to the Customer Relations Department, suggesting the change of one letter only, i.e. "Let the train make the strain".

I received a reply and compensation, but no thanks for my suggestion.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WEST,
9 Ullswater Road, Barnes, SW13 9PL.
December 30.

From Mr Jack Smith

Sir, Those of us who had a hand in the campaign in which "Let the train take the strain" was a major and very effective component are still delighted when it is resuscitated from time to time, after so many years.

As a professional railwayman of over 62 years' experience, may I suggest that its successor for 1999 should be: "Come back, British Railways, all is forgiven."

Yours faithfully,
JACK SMITH,
Hohrti, Hermitage Road,
Cold Ash, Newbury RG18 9JG.
January 1.

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SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open the first session of the new Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on Thursday, July 1.

Sir David Woodbine Parish

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir David Woodbine Parish, CBE, will be held at St Olaves, Hari Street, London EC3, on Tuesday, January 19, 1999, at noon.

Sir William Mather

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir William Mather will be held at St Peter's, Prestbury, Cheshire, on Wednesday, January 20, at noon. Donations if desired to Macclesfield District General Hospital or the Army Benevolent Fund.

Colonel Roderick Hill

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Colonel Roderick Hill, late Coldstream Guards and formerly Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent, will be held at St Mary's Parish Church, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, on Thursday, February 11, 1999, at 11.30am. Would those wishing to attend please write for tickets to Mr G.C. Francis, 17 Welsh Street, Chepstow, NP6 5TH, before January 25. All are most welcome.

Mr Quentin Crewe
A memorial service for Mr Quentin Crewe will be held at St George's, Hanover Square, London W1, on Thursday, February 18, at noon.

Dinner

The Athenaeum
Mrs Lavinia Colm-Sherlock was the speaker at a talk dinner of the Athenaeum held last night at Pall Mall. The Very Rev David Edwards was in the chair.

Marriage

Mr R. Johnson and Mrs J. Griffiths
The marriage took place on Christmas Eve, at Runaway Bay, Jamaica, between Mr Roy Johnson and Mrs June Griffiths.

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for January was won with 748W 260906. The winner lives in Kent and has a bond holding of £19,991.

Birthdays today

The King of Spain celebrates his 61st birthday today.

The Grand Duke of Luxembourg celebrates his 78th birthday today. Mr Alfred Brendel, KBE, concert pianist, 66; Mr Tom Burke, environmentalist, 52; the Earl of Dudley, 79; Sir Alan Hume, civil servant, 86; Miss Diane Keaton, actress, 53; Lord Kingsdown, KG, 72; Miss Jan Leeming, broadcaster, 57; Mr Maurizio Pollini, pianist, 57; Sir Norman Price, former chairman, Board of Inland Revenue, 84; Major-General H. Quinton, 93; General Sir Michael Rose, 59; General Sir John Sillett, 64; the Hon. Mrs Alison Warwick, former director-general, British Railways, 54; Lord Wynford, 82.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Burke, genealogist and founder of Burke's Peerage, 1787; King Camp Gillette, inventor of the safety razor, 1855; Fouad I, King of Egypt, 1872; Sir Ernest Shackleton, explorer, South Georgia, Antarctica, 1902; Calvin Coolidge, 30th American President, 1923-29, Northampton, Massachusetts, 1923; Amy Johnson, aviator, on a flight across the Thames Estuary, 1934; Sonny Liston, boxer, Las Vegas, 1971.

One-day cricket was born when England played Australia at Melbourne because the Test match had been abandoned after the previous day's rain, 1971.

Hunting for a relic stolen from Cromwell's hearse

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ON THE 400th anniversary of Oliver Cromwell's birth, the Museum of London's staff are searching for the satin coat of arms that adorned the hearse at his funeral in 1658 and may have been stolen by a Westminster schoolboy who vanished with it into the crowd.

An account from the 1790s

suggests that it is in a private collection, but tracking it down has so far proved impossible.

Hazel Forsyth, the museum's curator of post-medieval collections, said: "It is astonishing that any object

from Oliver Cromwell's funeral

has survived the vandalism

and destruction of the Restoration

and vicissitudes of the last 400 years. But two fragile textiles have survived, one in the

Museum of London's collection: the other in private hands, present whereabouts unknown. Both were apparently taken from the hearse."

Cromwell died from a

malaria infection of the spleen on September 3, 1658. His funeral was particularly lavish, costing up to £60,000, according to some estimates, at a time when the average daily wage was less than a shilling (5p). More than 2,000 mourners, shields bearing coats-of-arms in satin, taffeta (a type of woven silk) and buckram (a cotton-based fabric), were among objects that adorned the hearse and rooms at Somerset House where he lay in state for several weeks. But only two escutcheons are believed to have survived: at the Restoration in 1661, the hearse was destroyed and Cromwell's body was exhumed, the head severed and the body cast

into a pit under the gallows.

The Museum of London's

taffy escutcheon, acquired in 1914, bears this inscription: "Oliver Cromwell's scutcheon that was taken from his hearse ye 23rd Nov. 1658."

Miss Forsyth said: "Until recently, it was thought that the museum's escutcheon had been taken from the hearse by a Westminster schoolboy, Robert Uvedale. The 16-year-old, in an act of bravado, darted through the legs of the guard and snatched the escutcheon from the bier, disappearing into the crowd before anyone could stop him. In due course, the scutcheon became a family heirloom, and was eventually framed. At some point a paper label with Latin inscription was fixed to the back, describing the theft, and continuing with a vituperative account of Cromwell's life and character."

However, she explained,

close reading suggests that the "Uvedale" escutcheon is

different from the museum's

and that the boy's souvenir

has yet to be traced.

The museum will be dis-

playing its escutcheon in

Cromwell: Wars and All,

which will run from Friday

this week to February 28,

along with Cromwell memorabilia that make up the largest

collection in the country.

Items will include a waistcoat

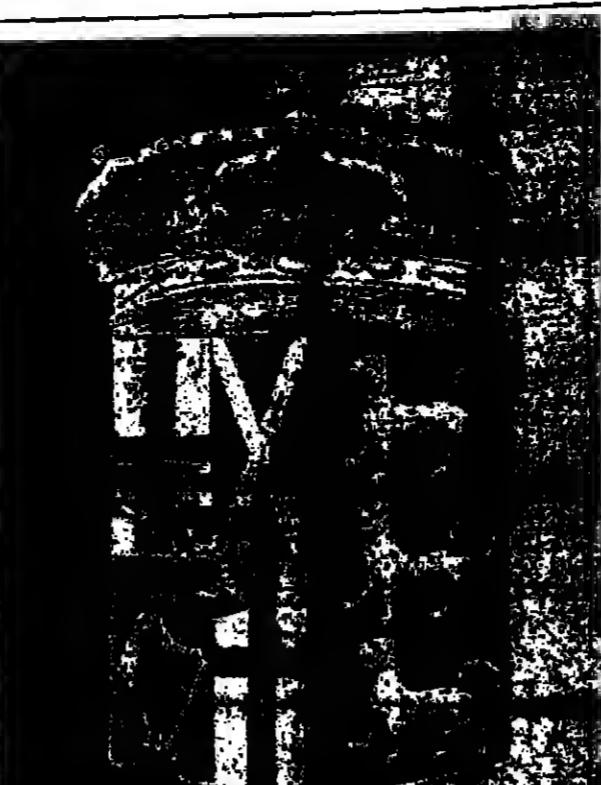
reputedly worn by Charles I

on the scaffold and two death

masks. Much of it has never

been seen before. The exhibition

is among a series of special events which will commemorate the 400th anniversary of Cromwell's birth on April 25, 1599.



Cromwell's escutcheon: taken from his hearse



His brass coffin plate: stolen by an optimistic gold thief

THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 5 1999

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.M. Benson

and Miss A.H. Praiz

The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of the late Dr Denis Benson and of Mrs Mary Allen, of Gloucester, and Alison, daughter of Kenneth and Rosalind Praiz, of Alford, Aberdeenshire.

Mr J.A. Crammer

and Mrs K.A. Davides

The engagement is announced between James Oliver, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Kelloch, of Old Fonthill Abbey, Tisbury, Wiltshire, and Karen Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Sven Davides, of Kingswood, Surrey.

Lieutenant G.S. Matthews, RN

and Dr J.F. Mason

The engagement is announced between Quentin, younger son of Dr and Mrs Trevor Matthews, of Overton, near Kirby Lonsdale, Lancashire, and Judith, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Mason, of Lowell, Lancashire.

Mr J.R. Pugh

and Miss F.J.M. Goodness

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Colonel Oliver, Pugh, of East Horsley, Surrey, and of the late Mrs Ann Pugh, and Frédérique, only daughter of M. and Mme Pierre Groux, of Tarascon-sur-Rhône, France.

Mr T.G.J. Sherston

and Miss C.A. Vassier

The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mr and Mrs Jack Sherston, of Wareham, Kent, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr Douglas Vassier, of Chelsea, London, and Mrs Lena Proudfit, of Didsbury, Greater Manchester.

Mr R.S. Taylor

and Miss A.C.L. Alder

The engagement is announced between Russell, elder son of Mr and Mrs Sam Taylor, of Cramond, Edinburgh, and Annabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Alder, of Beverley, East Yorkshire.

Mr C.M. Watson

and Miss D.J.G. de Saige

The engagement is announced between Michael Charles Knowles, son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs T.A.K. Watson, of Broadchalke, Wiltshire, and Deborah Jane Geraldine, younger daughter of the late Rev and Mrs John de Saige.

Mr R. Söderström

and Miss H. Norman

The engagement is announced between Rolf Söderström, Swedish resident of Vienna, and Heather Norman, of London.

PERPER - Roland Neville, on

2nd January, peacefully at

his home in Bexleyheath.

PERIN - Gloucestershire, aged 88, years. Funeral Services at St. Mary's Church, Cheltenham, on Friday 8th January at 10.30 am.

PERIN - Michael, son of

Mr and Mrs Philip and

Mrs Perin, of Cheltenham.

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OBITUARIES

Charles John Robert Manners, 10th Duke of Rutland, CBE, died on January 3 aged 79. He was born on May 28, 1919.

Charles, Duke of Rutland had the unusual distinction of being the prototype of the hero in many a Barbara Cartland novel, thanks to his distinguished looks and circumstances. He lived at Belvoir Castle, a romantic castle with turrets and rooms full of armours and peacockes strutting the "jordly" terraces. He owned the 15th-century Haddon Hall, so lovingly restored by his father. He was the head of the Manners family and a well known national figure, partly because he was married to Frances Sweeny, daughter of the controversial Margaret Duchess of Argyll, and partly because of his prolonged battles with the National Coal Board.

The Manners family came originally from Northumberland, where the Duke's ancestor, Sir Robert de Manners, was Governor of Norham Castle in the early 14th century. They became Barons de Ros, then Earls of Rutland, and finally Dukes. The 12th Lord Ros married Anne Plantagenet, sister of Edward IV, and it was to his son, Thomas,

a courtier and 1st Earl of Rutland, that Henry VIII gave Belvoir Castle, with land, in Leicestershire. The 8th Earl of Rutland inherited Haddon Hall and land in Derbyshire from his grandmother, Dorothy Vernon, and in 1703 the 9th Earl was made Duke of Rutland for his loyalty to Queen Anne.

Charles was the eldest son of the 9th Duke and his wife, Kathleen, a member of the extensive Tenant clan and a niece of Margaret Asquith. He was christened Charles John, Robert and educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, gaining his degree in 1940. He then served in the Grenadier Guards as a captain. Subsequently he was a county councillor for Leicestershire (and later chairman of the council), became a Deputy Lieutenant in 1950, and was a JP. He was Master of the Belvoir Foxhounds from 1940, and Joint Master from 1947.

He was area president of the East Midlands Conservatives. He succeeded his father as 10th Duke a month before his 21st birthday in 1940 and was appointed CBE in 1962.

In 1946 he married his first wife, Anne Cumming Bell, who subsequently made a name as a model, using the title Anna Duchess of Rutland. They had one daughter, Char-

lotte, but divorced in 1956. His second wife was Frances Sweeny, whom he married in 1958. She was the daughter of the American millionaire Charles Sweeny, and his wife Margaret, at the time of the marriage the third wife of the 11th Duke of Argyll.

Frances Sweeny had many suitors but, in the words of the Duchess of Argyll, the Duke was "the most persistent of them all". The union was much encouraged by Margaret Argyll, who invited him on a celebrated tour of the Middle East in 1958, on which the three were pursued mercilessly by the press. There was one, humorous, moment when a journalist was arrested by an Arab soldier, who inquired of the Duchess: "Shall we kill him now?"

Eventually, Frances overcame her Roman Catholic worries about marrying a divorced Protestant, 18 years her senior. The wedding was celebrated with a reception at Claridge's, a family pipper leading the young couple into the ballroom. They had three sons: the present Marquess of Granby in 1959, Robert, who died of leukaemia in 1964 aged two, and Lord Edward Manners. There was also one daughter, Lady Teresa, born in 1962 who attracted much media attention in her twenties (notably

for being caught in a passionate embrace while driving on the M6 in August 1983).

Dukes attract publicity in other ways, and Rutland was no exception. In 1939 he was



The Duke of Rutland at Belvoir, 1996

for speeding. He and both his wives suffered numerous robberies. A £5,000 painting was stolen in 1968, and there were numerous jewellery thefts: £7,000 worth stolen in London in 1948, an even more valuable haul taken from the Duchess's suitcase on a train in 1960 and a further substantial theft in London in December 1965. In 1976 four paintings and an oak carving were stolen from Haddon.

The Duke was forever buying and selling hotels in the Derbyshire area, a notable purchase being the Izaak Walton Hotel at Dovedale. He opened Belvoir Castle and Haddon to the public, and enjoyed friendly rivalry with his old Cambridge friend the Duke of Devonshire. Speaking at Chatsworth, he said: "While you are putting your half-crowns in my good friend the Duke of Devonshire's till, may I remind you that we also give good value for the same money at Haddon."

In 1967 he got into trouble for shooting during the foot and mouth epidemic, and in April 1982 he spoke out against a proposed ban on foxhunting, being proud to own the longest established pack of foxhounds in the country. In 1983 he was forced to sell the Rutland Psalters, which raised nearly £2 million.

for a maintenance fund for Belvoir.

The Rutlands returned to the headlines over the years because of the difficult relationship of the Duchess with her mother, Margaret Argyll. Their differences developed from the childhood illness of the heir, and in 1970 the Duchess of Argyll was banned from Belvoir after accusing her daughter of "posing as a devout Catholic". Thereafter early wounds proved too deep to heal, though the Duchess supported her mother in a nursing home in her last years.

The Duke was also well-known for his extended battle with the National Coal Board. In 1977 he resisted its attempts to mine three fields in the choice farming and hunting land of Leicestershire and later threatened to "lie down in front of the first bulldozer". He did not think that the potential subsidence and damage to the community was justified, given that the need for coal had greatly diminished. He incurred hostility from the Labour MP Dennis Skinner, who pointed out that the Duke was chairman of the East Midlands Economic Planning Council, and said: "As soon as there is the opportunity of finding some jobs on his land he tries to stop it".

The Duke then gave an interview to a tabloid newspaper, and was heard to mutter: "I suppose I shall have to pose in the nude." In 1980s there was an 83-day inquiry, and four years later only one pit was mined, at Asfordby.

A couple of years ago the Duke had a comical disagreement with the Alliance & Leicester Building Society when it became a bank and sent him a £1,000 windfall. He claimed that because he had invested a fortune in the society, he was entitled to much more than the ordinary investor. He did not get it.

The Duke was a kind man, modest, unassuming and sometimes vague (he lost the ashes of his great-uncle, Lord Cecil Manners, by failing to mark the spot of burial). Occasionally he expressed reactionary views, as when he declared in 1960: "If parents had smacked the little devils' behinds when they were small, you would not have had so much juvenile crime." He and his wife entertained frequently at Belvoir.

He is succeeded in the dukedom by his son from his second marriage, the Marquess of Granby. His wife, his younger son and a daughter from that marriage also survive him, together with the daughter from his first marriage.

SIR WILLIAM STUTTAFFORD

Sir William Stuttafford, CBE, former Chairman of the Unit Trusts Association and President of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, died on January 2 aged 70. He was born on November 21, 1928.

BILL STUTTAFFORD was one of the most respected of his generation in the City. He was quintessentially a City man of the old school, with the gravitas and charm of a figure from a novel by Galsworthy but without the portentousness. His flexibility and acute intelligence enabled him to adapt to the successive revolutions in the financial world, over the past 40 years, and to temper

the policy of the various City firms in which he was involved so that they, and their clients, prospered exceedingly.

William Royden Stuttafford was born at Horning in Norfolk, the eldest son of Dr William and Marjorie Stuttafford. He was not destined for a City career. At Gresham's, Holt, where he was head of school, he revelled in classics, mathematics and physics and seemed set for a career in either the Church or medicine.

However, after Trinity College, Oxford, and National Service with the 10th Royal Hussars, he decided on a diplomatic career but he failed the Foreign Office exam by one place. He was accepted with the proviso that he retook the exam, but again he was

profoundly successful. Ever grateful for the training, he nonetheless refused all suggestions of staying on and determined on a career in the City. After a comparatively short

time as a fund manager with an insurance company, he joined the stockbrokers Laurence Keen & Gardner, becoming a partner in 1959. His firm later amalgamated to form Laurence Prust and in 1983 he became senior partner.

Stuttafford always championed the expansion of share ownership. Working within Laurence Keen & Gardner, he formed his first unit trust — the Guernsey Trust — and a few years later he started Framlington, which was to prove one of the most successful of the unit trusts, and won numerous awards. He was chairman of the Framlington Group 1983-89, and of the Unit Trust Association, 1987-89.

He attributed the success of his teams to a combination of

informality and efficiency. He offered his colleagues loyalty and a free rein, but he had no patience with the ethos of the long lunch or any conspicuous display of wealth. Once when the appointment of a finance director was being finalised, the candidate added almost as an afterthought that he assumed he would have a company Porsche. Stuttafford, shocked, explained that he himself drove a very elderly family car and Porsches were not part of the company image. The man insisted, and the contract was torn up. Stuttafford's own car shortly afterwards burst into flames, and he was lucky to escape with a scorching.

After the sale of Framlington, Stuttafford became deputy chairman of Brown Shipton with the remit of arranging an advantageous sale. In 1994 he became chairman of Invesco (Europe) and a member of the board of Amvescap. He held various other directorships in the banking and insurance world and was a member of the Takeover Panel.

For many years he lectured at the City University; he was a member of the investment committee of the University of Kent, adviser to the special trustees of St Thomas' Hospital, financial adviser to the Rayne Foundation, a medical charity, and for many years a committee member of the Africa Centre.

Politics were another great interest. He was chairman of the Conservative Party Political Centre, chairman of his local constituency in Essex and, from 1986 to 1989, of the East of England Conservative Association. He was a member of the Conservative Research Group and a member of the Conservative Political Centre. He was knighted in 1995.

Apart from politics and finance, his interests centred on his family, the Church — he was a churchwarden at his local church for 25 years — and latterly racing. In 1957 he married Sarah, daughter of the late Philip Legge, although the marriage was dissolved, they remained friends and she survives him, with two stepchildren.

In 1974 he married, secondly, D'Estree Grahame, daughter of the late Captain Sir Gerald Grahame, who shared, with good humour and loyalty, his many interests. She also survives him, with two sons and two daughters.

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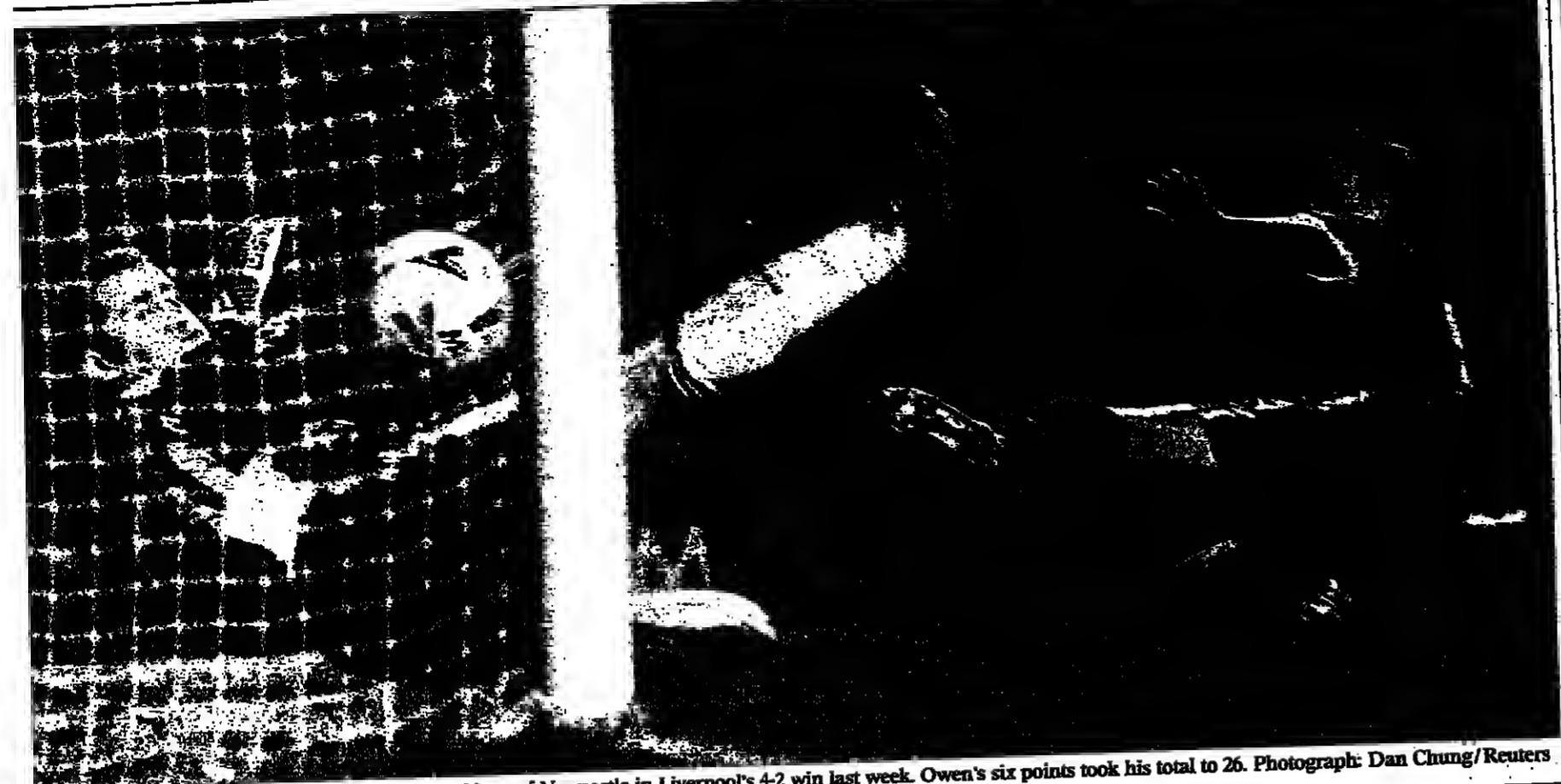
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In 1974 he



Michael Owen slips his second goal past Shay Given of Newcastle in Liverpool's 4-2 win last week. Owen's six points took his total to 26. Photograph: Dan Chung/Reuters

Cup break gives players chance to boost confidence

Stan Collymore, two goals against Hull City; Ibrahim Bakayoko, a brace at Bristol City; Gianluca Vialli, Steffen Iversen and Ritchie Humphreys, another two each against Oldham Athletic, Watford and Norwich City. And the crowning glory, a Darren Huckerby hat-trick as Coventry City hit seven goals past Macclesfield. Great goalscoring performances, coupled with fine defensive displays by Liverpool, Blackburn Rovers and Chelsea; unfortunately, all counting for nothing in *Times* Fantasy League terms.

With FA Cup matches not counting towards Fantasy league points totals, the form of the players mentioned above is only noteworthy inasmuch as it may signify their confidence going into the next round of Premiership games, some of which are significant indeed.

The bottom four clubs come face to face when Nottingham Forest visit Coventry, while Southampton welcome Charlton to The Dell. Wimbledon play Derby, the last time they will face anyone other than Tottenham for some time, with FA and Worthington Cup ties following hard on the heels of the league meeting at White Hart Lane.

This week's tables are updated to include the eight games play on Bank Holiday Monday (December 28) and the following evening's games between Chelsea and Manchester United and Leeds and Wimbledon.

It was a programme of matches that saw John Hartson and Ian Wright rediscover the goal touch that both had been sorely missing over previous weeks, and Arsenal remind everyone that they will not surrender their championship lightly with a clean sheet in victory at Charlton. Villa stayed ahead thanks to goals from defenders Ugo Ehiogu and the far-from-prolific Gareth Southgate, and Liverpool continued their recent improvement against Newcastle with two each from Michael Owen and Karleheinz Riedle.

The most impressive individual performance of the week, however,



worth nine points, was that of Chris Armstrong of Tottenham, who scored three goals in the 4-1 win over Everton.

His rise to the top began at Wrexham, following a free transfer from Llyw Llywfaen in March 1989, before a £500,000 fee took him to Millwall in 1991. His stay in the capital continued at Crystal Palace and then Tottenham, who paid Palace the surprising sum of

£4,500,000 during the 1995 close season, bearing in mind that he had scored only eight goals. Injuries have often held him back at White Hart Lane but his ability to score goals has never been in doubt, and he is a deserving winner of our first Fantasy League player of the week award for 1999.

PRIZES

- £50,000 to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final
- £30,000 to the runner-up
- £5,000 for third place
- £5,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment
- £500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment
- £1,000 youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt
- £500 weekly On-Target prize

HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your

team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or ROI) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

LUCKY DIP If you would like us to select a team at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form. Post entries only.

TO ENTER BY PHONE Call 0640 67 88 99 (+44 670 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-

tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN, make sure you write this down and keep it safe to be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the UK are charged at national rates.

Calls from payphones cost approximately double.

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Carbone a fine catch for Tiddlers

The £1,000 prize for December is heading to North Yorkshire, thanks in no small part to 16 points from the talented Italian

December was a month of big games, outstanding individual performances and controversial refereeing decisions. Like every other month in the FA Carling Premiership, in other words. But there was the extra spice of the holiday fixtures, and the two bizarre clashes between Chelsea and Manchester United.

So, what will we remember December for, and who were the Fantasy League players who made their marks on the month?

Aston Villa managed to stay ahead of the chasing pack despite defeat at Chelsea; they made up for it by beating Arsenal 3-2 in a thrilling come-from-behind performance and sharing the points with Manchester United. At the other end of the table, Charlton began to slide into danger, and Southampton suggested that a rally might be on until Chelsea took three points at The Dell.

Referees were predictably to the fore thanks to the controversial dismissals of Michael Oakes, the Villa goalkeeper, in the defeat at Blackburn, and Patrick Vieira of Arsenal in their 1-0 win at The Valley.

Arguably the player of the month was Benito Carbone of Sheffield Wednesday, who enjoyed a purple patch in the middle of the month with goals against Nottingham Forest and Charlton Athletic, and his absence on Boxing Day was keenly felt when Leicester triumphed at Hillsborough. Carbone contributed 16 points to Tom's Tiddlers, the team chosen by the winner of the monthly prize for December, Brian Longbone of Pickering, North Yorkshire.

Pressure of work meant that Mr Longbone, a surveyor, was unable to pay as much attention as he might have liked to the progress of his side; thus news of his prize of £1,000 plus £100 worth of sports equipment was something of a surprise. "It has come as a shock," he said. "I thought I'd picked a good team, but not that good."

Mr Longbone took a methodical approach to team selection, working out how much he could afford to spend on each position. "You have a financial constraint," he said. "It might not have been the team I'd have picked if I had had free rein." Such strict financial planning was the reason behind the selection of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink. Mr Longbone's top points scorer, with 17, "£15 million for Alan Shearer would be a lot of money to tie up in one position. Hasselbaink was good value."

Mr Longbone has no particular footballing allegiance. "I just like to



Tom's Tiddlers	22
E De Geay (CRE)	21
D Irwin (MAN)	4
W Barton (NEW)	5
M Elliott (LEI)	12
R Ferdinand (WES)	3
M Carbone (SHE)	16
D Anderson (TOT)	10
P Ince (LIV)	4
M Higgin (WIM)	7
J Joachim (AST)	8
J F Houghton (LEI)	27
Total points: 98	

see good football, and I try to identify what a good footballer should be."

In general, he avoided "controversial figures; the team is based on good quality professional players". Some might wonder about the inclusion of Warren Barton, who has played as left back for Newcastle this season, despite the admission of Ruud Gullit, his manager, that "he hasn't got a left foot", but the selection of Michael Hughes and Julian Joachim, both of whom have garnered rave reviews for their performances this season, shows that Mr Longbone's policy of not breaking the bank for big stars can bring success. Are you watching, Mr Vialli?

The winner of the weekly prize of £500 plus £100-worth of sports equipment, Ridwan Patel, of the University of Surrey, had Chris Armstrong of Tottenham, our player of the week and scorer of a hat-trick against Everton, to thank for nine of the 26 points scored by his team. The SuperSonics. Three of his four defenders (Dennis Irwin, Steve Walsh and Rio Ferdinand) managed clean sheets, while Robbie Earle and Dean Sturridge came up with valuable goals.



The new Ian Wright? Chris Armstrong also left Crystal Palace for North London, and now finds himself working under George Graham, as Wright did during his best days at Arsenal. His hat-trick against Everton ensured that the Spurs revival continued; the chat-show is surely only a matter of time ...

What do you mean your team is hopeless? You can win £500

Enter a new team now for ON-Target, where this week your team need not score any points at all in order to win the weekly prize

Congratulations to Martyn Robinson, the third week's main winner of ON-Target, who finds himself £500 richer and possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen other managers have also won themselves New Year prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now, or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. The Times has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned *FIFA 99* game. Every week you have the chance to win:

■ 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack

■ 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs

■ 10 additional runners up: Fifa 99 CD-Rom

Each EA Sports Pack contains *FIFA 99* for the PC, EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a card bag.

If YOU already have a team in the main game, then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check our Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. You have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes.

The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score each day. It could be minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week.

It's never too late to enter. Just have your PIN number handy to call the winners line on



If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could win the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes.



HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checklist 0640 901 4270. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target numbers, then call our claim line on 0670 901 4270 (calls charged at national rate).

should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won.

Managers with the correct points who have not called the claim line will not be entered.

Calls that are incomplete,

inaudible or invalid will not be entered.

All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

Winners

This week's winners are: Mr Martyn Robinson of Haywards Heath (£500 plus EA Sports Pack); Mr Clifford Boland of Swindon, Mr Andrew Coombs of Verwood, Dorset, Mr Andrew Simpson of Carlton, Mr M. S. A. Khan of London SW8 (EA Sports Pack); Mrs Toni White of Broomhill, Mrs Sheila Somerton of Tadcaster, Mr Donald Gibbs of Lethbury, Mrs Janet Pennington of Burton on Trent, Mr David Quell of Northfield, Birmingham; Ms Fiona Martin of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancs; Mr John Cotter of Stroud, Mr Graham Marshall of Hartlepool; Mr David Rodde of Whitstable and Mr Des Ridder of Whitstable (Fifa 99 CD-Roms).



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Last week's teaser asked you to find the connection between the four players' pictures using your body of footballing knowledge. The players were Carlton PALMER, Robbie MUSTOE, Marcus HEDMAN and Ian HARTE. Spelling aside, the bodily parts become apparent.

This week try and find the connection between the quartet pictured. Answers on this page next week.

Two weeks ago our Christmas quiz asked you to discover the seasonal connection between four players. Answers and prize details are mentioned in the article above.

CHECK YOUR SCORES
TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE TOP 10

1 Robert Anderson	Roberts Rovers	216
2 Stuart Rutter	Spionheville	210
3 Graham Jevon	Gaga	198
4 Richard Low	Goodr United	198
5 Matthew O'Neill	The M Team	197
6 Richard Burton	No Fear	196
7 Nicholas Fenney	Fillesnefours	196
8 Dominic McDonnell	Birchall Bullets	196
9 Paul Williams	Where Was Gaza	195
10 David Edmondson	Titus All Stars	194

Plus nine others on 197 points



Julian Joachim, who features in the Tom's Tiddlers team

Are you carrying crocks in your team?

A WEEKEND off in the FA Carling Premiership because of the FA Cup third round gives managers in The Times Fantasy League time to reflect on what might have been, and, what could still be.

In an ideal world, the arrival of the new year would give your side a new lease of life — your goal-starved striker hits the mark with regularity, and your crocked midfielder eventually comes off the treatment table and makes a dream comeback with a goal and an assist. Unfortunately we do not live in an ideal world, which is why we have to rely on Fantasy League's own Fairy Godmother, the transfer market, in order to grant your wishes for the rest of the season.

In the winter months, it is

quite often difficult fielding a side of 11 fully-fit players every week. It is a time when injuries and suspensions take their toll and much angst is caused by hearing those dreaded words — "out for the season".

In the last month, the Leeds United defenders Martin Hiden and Robert Molenaar have been ruled out for the remainder of the season with

cruciate ligament injuries. In such circumstances, there is no point in feeling sorry for yourself for a couple of weeks. Now is the time for action and there's no reason to hang about — the sooner your transfer request is handed in, the sooner your side will be up and running again.

For instance, if you are

amongst the unlucky managers who own Hiden or Molenaar, then by buying a direct replacement in the Leeds central defence such as Woodgate, not only have you increased the points scoring potential of your side, but you have also pocketed a handy £2000 profit which could be used to strengthen another area of your side.

Many managers will be anxious to hear the result of

Gustavo Poyet's knee scan. Poyet has been in devastating form this season, scoring 25 points in 12 games, and managers will be extremely keen not to lose his services for a long period.

Managers who kept faith with Steve McManaman during his two months out through injury have not been repaid as he lasted just 40 minutes before he broke down again and requires at least another week on the sidelines.

Therefore, if you have heard news that one of your players has more than a niggle, then it may be wise to act fast in the hope of finding a replacement who can add to your points tally. After all, you can always buy the original model back again if really necessary.

MATT SMITH

Want to make one of your 12 transfers?
Call
0640 62 51 03
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)
0640 calls cost 60p per minute.
Ex-UK calls charged at national rates

NEWS

Labour feud claims third victim

Senior members of the Cabinet last night urged their colleagues "to draw a line" under the most damaging episode of Mr Blair's Government, as the home loan affair claimed its third important casualty.

Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's trusted press secretary was forced to resign after continuing accusations that he was the culprit who leaked details of the £373,000 loan to Peter Mandelson from Geoffrey Robinson.

Page 1

Euro enjoys smooth global launch

Europe's fledgling currency was given a royal baptism by the financial markets in a day's trading that saw it rise against the dollar. European Union leaders greeted the launch in the City, the Continent, Wall Street and Asia as a sign of confidence that the euro is set to establish itself alongside the dollar. Page 1

Flu calls jam 999

Panicking flu patients are precipitating a crisis in the overstressed health service by making 999 calls to demand ambulances to take them to hospital. Pages 1, 8

Birds ruffle Dome

Work on the Millennium Dome could be halted by the arrival of three pairs of black redstarts, one of the country's rarest nesting birds, at the construction site in Greenwich. It is against the law to disturb the "bombastic birds" once they start nesting, due to start next month. Pages 1, 7

Diana coin issued

Sixteen months after her death, Diana, Princess of Wales takes her place on a coin of the realm. The new £5 commemorative coin, unveiled by the Royal Mint today, is the first of four official memorials to the Princess. Page 2

Yemeni bomb plot

The leader of the terrorist gang who kidnapped 16 Western tourists in Yemen had planned to bomb British targets in Aden five days earlier. Page 3

Storms lash Scotland

Gale force winds gusting at 83mph battered Scotland and Ireland yesterday leaving one man dead and thousands without electricity. A 74-year-old man drowned when he was blown into the River Almond at Cramond, outside Edinburgh. Page 5

Tourist marries her Aussie hero

A backpacker from Birmingham has married her own "Crocodile Dundee" after he rescued her from a crocodile-infested river in the Australian outback. Abigail Wilkinson's dramatic meeting with her husband-to-be, David Wielders, happened while she was on a canoeing trip at Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia. Page 10



British troops working with Nato in Macedonia yesterday held a remembrance service in Skopje for soldiers killed in World War One

Cold war camp plan

A secret plan to send thousands of Americans to Budin's holiday camps before evacuating them from Europe in the event of war with the Soviet Union has been revealed in documents released under the 50-year rule. Page 9

US cautious on euro

The Clinton Administration has greeted the launch of the euro with a cautious enthusiasm that belies the problems the project may present. Page 23

Mosque massacre

Gunmen opened fire on Shia Muslims as they knelt in prayer at a mosque in eastern Punjab province yesterday, killing 16 people. Injured worshippers crawled to loudspeakers and pleaded for help. Page 11

Angola in turmoil

Tens of thousands of Angolan civilians face starvation and death after the United Nations suspended flights to war-torn parts of the country, sparking fears that the rebel UNITA movement aimed to overrun government-held towns sheltering hundreds of thousands of refugees. Page 12

Washington wives

The clearest indications yet that Hillary Clinton is planning to launch her own political career electrified Washington as preparations continued for her husband's Senate trial. Page 13

Shares leap: European stock markets celebrated the smooth introduction of the euro with euphoric surge, as investors bought into Europe's biggest companies. Page 23

ICI setback: Shares in ICI plunged yesterday after US regulators blocked the sale of ICI's Tioxide business to DuPont and NL Industries. Page 23

Merge expected: Bell Atlantic and AT&T Communications, the United States phone companies, have delayed an announcement of their \$45 billion merger, but are still expected to agree to a deal this week. Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 3.20 points to 5879.4. The pound fell 0.41 cents to \$1.6599 and 0.56p against the euro to 71.09p. Page 26

Football: Keith Wiseman resigned as chairman of the Football Association after admitting that he had made mistakes in his contacts with the FA of Wales. The vice-chairman, Geoff Thompson, takes over as acting chairman. Page 44

Cricket: Michael Slater scored 123 out of Australia's total of 184 in the final Test in Sydney. Page 40

Sailing: Senior figures within the Royal Yachting Association are exasperated by the failure of the Spirit of Britain syndicate to secure primary sponsors for their America's Cup challenge. Page 42

Racing: A new daily racing paper could be on the streets in time for the Cheltenham Festival after nine months of negotiations with potential backers. Page 39

Cast out: Two powerful new London exhibitions devoted to the works of Rachel Whiteread and Kerry Stewart are haunted by sad shapes and glacial shadows. Page 31

Fancy footwork: A cast change for the Royal Ballet's *La Fille Mal Gardée* at the Festival Hall puts Cuban recruit Carlos Acosta in the spotlight. Page 32

Parent power: While the Government ponders the sad state of arts education, artists from Lesley Gammie to Antony Gormley reveal how their own offspring fare. Page 33

Street people: How North London reacted to the "forum theatre" of Brazilian guru Augusto Boal and the Cardboard Citizens company of homeless performers. Page 33

Forbidden desire: Genetic sexual attraction is common between long-lost relatives. One woman's story. Page 14

Dr Thomas Stansfeld: How a wonder drug of 1998 will be a boon for women. Page 14

Think small: "Lost" weight even while eating second and third helpings of traditional main courses. The second extract from Dr Robert C. Atkins's book. Page 15

New group: Yet another rival to existing small business organisations has been set up. Page 30

On the move: "We must approach change with confidence," Frances Gibb, the new Chairman of the Bar Council. Page 35

Holiday worry: Planning an excursion to somewhere exotic? How well-informed are you? Page 37

Charles John Robert Manners, 10th Duke of Rutland; Sir William Staatsford, CBE, former chairman of the Unit Trust Association and president of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations; Sebastian Haffner, German author. Page 19

UK commissioners for Brussels: society's "moral wasteland"; Flimby's public housing; birth of the euro; woodland burials; causes of goat strain of the train; Balliol protest; Shakespeare tribute; Shakespeare honoured. Page 17



Millennium bug act now!

TOMORROW

INTERFACE

You might think your business is safe, but the millennium bug could still ruin it

HOMES

Should a buyer be able to find out what a seller originally paid for a house?

Whether the powerful bomb that blew away a bridge on the road to Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was to take was actually an assassination attempt or a warning to him, must remain a matter of conjecture. But given the history of violence in the subcontinent, it would not be surprising if this was an attempt on his life, botched by incompetence or poor technology.

Hong Kong Standard

Charles John Robert Manners, 10th Duke of Rutland; Sir William Staatsford, CBE, former chairman of the Unit Trust Association and president of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations; Sebastian Haffner, German author. Page 19

UK commissioners for Brussels: society's "moral wasteland"; Flimby's public housing; birth of the euro; woodland burials; causes of goat strain of the train; Balliol protest; Shakespeare tribute; Shakespeare honoured. Page 17

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UK euro entry
is not inevitable

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The man who will
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JANUARY 5 1999

ICI falls 6% after US puts block on Tioxide disposal

By CARL MORTIFIED
INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS EDITOR

SHARES in Britain's largest quoted chemical company plunged yesterday after US regulators blocked the sale of ICI's Tioxide business to DuPont and NL Industries. Concerns that the group's \$5 billion disposal programme would be further delayed caused ICI shares to shed 6 per cent, reducing the chemical company's market value by \$20 million. Standard & Poor's, the debt rating agency, yesterday revised ICI's outlook from stable to negative, warning that the group's ability to diversify and reduce its \$4.4 billion in debt was uncertain. ICI added to the sense of urgency by announcing a big restructuring of its paints, industrial specialties and halochemicals businesses, leading to the loss of 1,000 jobs.

The UK will suffer about 500 redundancies, of which between 300 and 400 will affect ICI's Runcorn plant where the Halochemicals business is based. A further 200 jobs will be lost from industrial specialties in Warrington.

ICI has been forced to scrap a planned sale of Tioxide, a pigments business, because of concerns by Washington's Federal Trade Commission that the buyers would secure excessive market power. Tioxide makes titanium dioxide, a whitener used in paint. DuPont would have secured some 33 per cent of the world market and an important share in imports to the US.

Charles Miller, ICI's chief executive, said that the company would look at all the options for Tioxide, including a trade sale and break-up of the company but he indicated that flotation was now a preferred option. He said: "An IPO is a good front-runner." He also indicated that financial buyers, such as leveraged buy-out funds, might be attracted by Tioxide's cashflow.

City analysts were less enthused by the flotation plans. Robyn Coombs, of Merrill Lynch, said: "A public offer would be difficult as titanium dioxide had recently risen strongly in price, offering less recovery potential for investors."

The company insisted that the earnings impact of not achieving the planned sales would be neutral and predicted that pre-tax profits would exceed \$35 million in 1998 and confirmed that it would pay an unchanged full-year dividend of 32p per share. The \$120 million pre-tax restructuring charge will wipe out much of the \$120 million post-tax gain from the sale of Teesside Utilities and Services but will pay back £70 million in a full year.

ICI is cutting 10 per cent of the workforce in its US paints business where margins have been damaged in a recent price war.

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European shares surge as single currency gains value

By SAEED SHAH,
PAUL DURMAN AND
RICHARD MILES

EUROPEAN stock markets celebrated the smooth introduction of the euro with an euphoric surge, as investors rushed to buy into Europe's biggest companies. London, however, was left out of euro's party.

The benchmark Dow Jones Euro Stoxx 50 index of 50 eurozone blue chips jumped 6 per cent but, in contrast, London's FTSE 100 index of leading British shares closed 3.2 points lower at 5,879.4.

David Bowers, a European equity strategist at Merrill Lynch, said: "The ms have had a better day than the outs."

The euro appreciated modestly as many had expected, hitting early highs above \$1.19, compared with the \$1.16875 level at which its precursor, the European currency unit, ended life on Thursday. However, by afternoon trading, the euro had eased back to \$1.1790.

The pound ended a volatile

day of trading at just above 71 pence to the euro. During the day, it moved in a wide range of more than 3 per cent against the single currency, hitting a high of 70 pence to the euro. Its trade-weighted index fell to 99.0 from 99.7.

Nick Holby, an equity trader at Warburg Dillon Read,

one of the world's reserve currencies—NatWest clinging determinedly to pounds and pence.

NatWest yesterday mounted a brave, but apparently doomed, defence of the pound by refusing to put the euro first when quoting conversion rates for the single currency in the wholesale markets.

While virtually every other big City institution accepted the euro as the fixed element in the conversion formula—no doubt reflecting its likely displacement of sterling as

one of the world's reserve currencies—NatWest clinging determinedly to pounds and pence.

Alas, NatWest is having to rethink its patriotic stance in the light of the market practice of quoting 70p to the euro, rather than 1.4 euros to the pound. Annette Van Woudenberg, who has led the conversion programme for NatWest's capital markets division, said the bank may change its policy of putting the pound first for the sake of clarity in the market. "You

have to remember this is a unique situation," she said.

"There is no one body which

states how the conversion

should be expressed. We have

adopted a flexible approach."

Ms Van Woudenberg added that it would be determined during the course of the first trading day whether it was more appropriate to put the euro first in the wholesale markets.

Which currency should go first has been the subject of some heated debate in the industry during the run-up to

the conversion.

While it had proved impossible to come to a unanimous view, the consensus was for the euro first, according to Margaret Soden, senior manager of the EMU programme at HSBC.

One consequence of relegating sterling to second place is that the pound will disappear from City screens as conversion rates are expressed in pence. "Traders are already getting used to thinking of 70p or 71p to the euro," said Ms Soden.

surge of buying interest partly to pent-up demand. "A lot of people were told to refrain from dealing in the run-up to the conversion weekend. This was the first chance for the liquidity to get into the market," he said.

He added that the introduction of the euro highlighted the extent to which European assets were "under-owned" relative to the importance of European economies.

Eric Chaney, head of European economic research at Morgan Stanley, said that it was unusual for European equities, currencies and bonds to move up in tandem.

He said: "I would have thought today [that] Germans bought French equities, Italians bought French bonds, and so on. The euro makes cross-border investment easier and there is no currency risk."

Mr Chaney said that, although the strength of yesterday's rally could not be sustained, the outlook for European equities in the first half of this year was positive.

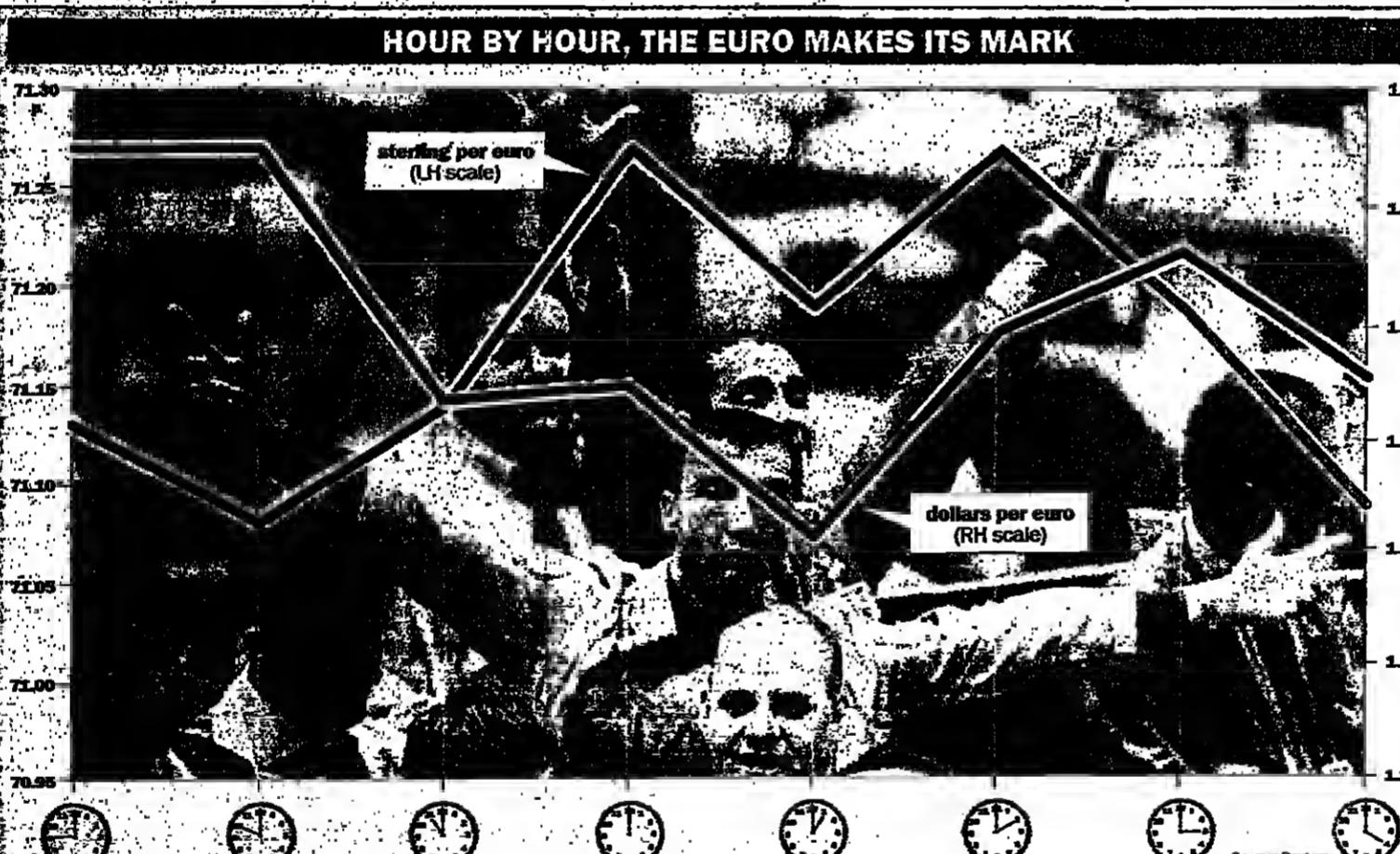
Some voices were more sceptical. George Magnus, chief economist at Warburg Dillon Read, said that the strength of the euro was not intrinsic but reflected the weakness of the dollar. Commenting on European stock markets, Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at the Charterhouse Group, said that the strength of the French and German markets did not look warranted by the economic background. "It's the mood of the day," he said.

"Only history will tell us whether the introduction of the euro deserves to be treated as it has been by the French and German markets. I'm deeply suspicious," he added.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was quoted about 70 points higher at mid-session.

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MPC rate-setters get mixed picture

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

MANUFACTURING activity improved from 38.9 in November to 42.2 in December, but evidence that the recent fall in exports has begun to ease provided an ambiguous backdrop to this week's meeting of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply said that total manufacturing fell for the ninth consecutive month, and that the decline was the third largest in a month since the survey began seven years ago. However, the institute's export or-

ders index improved from 38.9 in November to 42.2 in December, signalling a slowing in the pace of decline that purchasing managers attributed to the depreciation of sterling. The pace of redundancies in manufacturing also slowed last month.

The institute's prices index fell to a new low of 35.1, from 35.2 in November, underlining current disillusion at home and abroad.

The City is divided on whether the MPC will once again cut interest rates at its meeting, which starts tomorrow and

ends on Thursday. A poll of 19 economists by Reuters conducted after the last monetary policy meeting in December found that seven expected rates to be cut again, with 11 predicting that the next move would be in February or March and one "don't know".

Supporting the view that the MPC will stay its hand on rates were figures yesterday showing that the consumer's appetite to borrow remains robust.

Borrowing on credit cards rose by a record £559 million in November, the biggest monthly rise since the National Association of Purchasing Managers' Index showed the largest drop in output and the lowest level of output since the survey began in April 1996. It was the third monthly decline in a row. In Italy purchasing managers reported a drop in export orders for the sixth consecutive month.

England started publishing this series in 1993.

Overall consumer credit rose by £1.3 billion, just exceeding the £1.2 billion rise reported in October. The figures seemed to confirm data showing stronger than expected sales in the run-up to Christmas.

Coinciding with yesterday's British purchasing managers' survey were similar reports from America, Germany and Italy, which were uniformly weak in the face of fragile world demand. In America the National Association of Purchasing Managers said that manufacturing slowed in December for the seventh month in a row. The association's monthly index of business activity fell to its lowest level since May 1991, contrary to Wall Street forecasts of a small rise.

In Germany the Purchasing Managers' Index showed the largest drop in output and the lowest level of output since the survey began in April 1996. It was the third monthly decline in a row. In Italy purchasing managers reported a drop in export orders for the sixth consecutive month.

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PowerGen buys plants for £95m

PowerGen boosted its stocks of environmentally friendly generation yesterday with the £94.9 million purchase of Yorkshire Electricity's combined heat and power (CHP) plants.

The power plants, which supply large businesses and public buildings, produce more power for less fuel and operate on a smaller scale than other forms of electricity generation. They are the only type, so far, to escape the Government's moratorium on new gas-fired power stations.

The four CHP plants from Yorkshire will be added to PowerGen's existing stock of five such plants and will, the generator said, mark its commitment to expanding in environmentally friendly power.

GKN in US deal

GKN, the engineer, is following up last month's purchase of the Interlake Corporation with a further US deal that will see it take full control of one of Interlake's investments. It has negotiated the right to pay \$65 million (£39 million) for the 20 per cent of Höganäs, a powdered metal supplier, that Interlake does not own. It will be able to take possession of the stake, currently owned by Höganäs, a separate Swedish company, a year after the Interlake deal is completed.

C&W acquisition

Cable & Wireless, the telecoms company, has acquired ECRC Network Services, a German Internet service provider (ISP), from ICL for £7.5 million. The purchase is the first since the resignation of Dick Brown as chief executive of C&W. ECRC, which specialises in the German corporate market, is one of the country's top five ISPs.

House price fall

House prices in the UK fell by 0.1 per cent in December, according to the monthly Halifax house price index. This compares with a fall of 0.7 per cent in November. The average price paid for a house in the UK in December was £73,126. Halifax expects annual house price increases to slow to 4 per cent over 1999 from 6 per cent in 1998.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia	2.78	2.60
Austria Sch	20.37	18.73
Belgium	5.91	5.47
Canada S	2.648	2.700
Cyprus Cyp E	0.8619	0.7904
Denmark N	11.07	10.18
Egypt	1.45	1.35
Finland Mak	8.92	8.17
France Fr	9.70	8.92
Germany Dm	22.19	20.47
Greece Dr	4.88	4.47
Hong Kong S	13.68	12.48
Iceland	127	107
Ireland	1.72	1.60
Ireland Pr	4.1620	4.0730
Israel Shk	7.20	6.54
Italy Lira	269.99	266.2
Japan Yen	203.10	194.50
Malta	0.698	0.699
Netherlands Gld	3.292	2.997
New Zealand S	3.27	3.07
Norway Kr	1.18	1.20
Portugal Esc	294.64	272.61
S Africa R	10.40	9.45
Spain Peseta	248.00	239.00
Sweden Kr	14.11	13.01
Switzerland Fr	2.420	2.206
Turkey Lira	54.9361	50.938
USA \$	1.78	1.69

Rates for small denominations. Increases only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Mobile phone shares lifted by leap in sales

By CHRIS AYRES

AN ESTIMATED 2.5 million mobile phones were sold in the run-up to Christmas, three and half times more than in the same period in 1997, figures out yesterday revealed. The numbers amazed industry analysts and set off a share-buying spree that put billions of pounds on the value of the mobile phone companies. Analysts are now predicting that a further five million consumers will buy mobile phones in 1999, and that 39 per cent of Britain's adult population will be connected by 2000.

The vast majority of new connections in last quarter of 1998 were for pre-pay services, which let people buy mobile phone handsets for about £70, and pay for calls with vouchers instead of receiving bills.

The industry also benefited from pre-pay phones being sold by chains such as Tesco and Boots as well as by its usual retail outlets.

Vodafone, the industry leader, yesterday saw its market

Commentary, page 25
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Chris Gent, head of Vodafone, whose shares leapt yesterday

Euro hurts Japan and Hong Kong

By SAED SHAH

THE debut of the euro drove down Asia's two biggest stock markets yesterday, with shares dropping 3 per cent in Tokyo and more than 2 per cent in Hong Kong.

While the euro appreciated against the dollar on its first day of trading, the yen also

made ground against the greenback, which, according to brokers, hastened a slide in Tokyo stocks on fears that Japanese exports would become more expensive.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 average shed 426.28 points to close at 13,458.9, its lowest closing level since October 16.

Nick Parsons, chief current-

cy strategist at Paribas in London, said: "The yen was caught between euro strength and dollar weakness. Despite the new currency, it was a normal volatile day's trading for the yen."

The dollar dropped to near a three-month low in Asia at 112.79 yen, from Y113.65 in New York last Thursday, be-

fore climbing back to around Y113.60 by late afternoon.

Among leading stocks Sony lost Y180 to close at Y8050 (£44), Toyota fell Y15 to Y2955 and Honda retreated Y130 to Y2880.

The losses in Tokyo dragged Hong Kong down with it. The Hang Seng index fell 2.38 per cent to finish at 9,809.17.

Closes says: "Fund managers are increasingly eager to find exits from smaller company investments and in the future we are likely to see a more active role being played by fund managers in catalysing such exits."

STANDARD LIFE BANK said yesterday that it is to create 300 jobs after its phone lines were swamped by callers interested in its first mortgage offering (Richard Miles writes).

The banking arm of Europe's largest mutual life insurer said it had received more than 2,500 calls and £30 million worth of applications after opening for mortgage business at 8am.

The bank has attracted £2 billion in deposits from 170,000 savers since it was established 18 months ago.

The news came as the

Whistle-blowing on rogue directors rises

THE Department of Trade and Industry is getting a 100 calls a month from whistle-blowers informing on rogue directors and undischarged bankrupts who are continuing to illegally act as company executives.

The DTI's Insolvency Service said yesterday that the number of allegations concerning banned directors defying court orders had risen by 40 per cent to 1,200 last year. Complaints have led to more than 100 cases where Insolvency Service investigators are looking at having to repossess miscreant directors.

The news came as the

number of director disqualifications in the third quarter of 1998 rose by a third to 347. About 2,500 directors have been disqualified by the courts in the past two years.

Kim Howells, the Consumer Affairs Minister, said the number of calls to the Disqualified Directors Hotline showed that the Government's hardline on "rogues and cheats" was supported not only by the public but also by the business community who wanted to see the privilege of limited liability removed from those who used company failure as a vehicle for personal gain."

NORTHERN ROCK, the bank, has sold its financial services business to the management for a nominal £1. The bank will continue to receive commission from the independent advisory firm, now called Versteeg Lister & Co, for the next ten years in respect of previously written business. The disposal is in line with Northern Rock's strategy of concentrating on mortgages and savings and will have a minimal impact on income, the bank said yesterday. Northern Rock Financial Services is a three-man operation led by Roger Versteeg.

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POLYPIPE EXPANDS

POLYPIPE, a plastic products maker, has bought Pagette Sanitar Produktion-Vertrieb, a maker of toilet seats and plastic cisterns based in Bottrop, western Germany, for £9 million in cash. Poly-

pipe will pay £6 million initially and a further £3 million depend-

ent on the achievement of agreed operating profits for 1999 and 2000. For the year ending December 31, 1998, Pagette's operating profit was £510,000 on sales of £11.3 million. It has net assets of £500,000. Pagette will become part of Polypipe's bathroom and kitchen products division but will trade under the Pagette name.

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POLISH BUY FOR KALON

KALON GROUP, the paint and building materials

company, is to acquire up to 60 per cent of Polifarb Cieszyń

Wrocław, the Polish paints company, for a maximum consider-

ation of £4.2 million. Polifarb, which was created through the

merger of two rival paint manufacturers two years ago, is

listed on the Warsaw stock exchange and earned pre-tax

profits of £10.6 million on turnover of £96.5 million in the

year to December 31, 1997. Kalon shares were unchanged at 87p yesterday.

BERISFORD ACQUISITION

BERISFORD, the manufacturer of commercial food service

equipment and owner of Magnet kitchen stores, has acquired

Convector Elektrogeräte, a German ovenmaker, for up to

£13 million. The price is dependent on the results of the com-

pany's results for 1998. Convector produces "combi-ovens",

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Investors connect with surging telecoms sector

THE telecoms sector has rung in the new year just as it ended 1998 — on a high note.

Yesterday it was again connecting perfectly with City investors to produce six of the top ten best performing shares among blue chips.

Leading the way higher was Orange, up 96p, or almost 14 per cent, to 794½p, after adding 512,000 new customers during the final quarter of last year, and taking its total customer base to 2.16 million.

Vodafone had similar good news for shareholders with the price soaring 75p to 10.49 on turnover of 1.27 million shares. It attracted 933,000 new customers during the past quarter — way above even the most optimistic forecast.

Also showing few signs of running out of steam was Cell Telecom, up 36½p to 953p. Telewest added 12p to 185½p, and Securicor also put on 34p (to 538p). It continues to own 40 per cent of Celnet, which has added an extra 658,000 to its customer base in the past three months. British Telecom, owns the other 60 per cent of Celnet, and sported a rise of 33½p to 939p.

The dilemmas facing brokers is whether to recommend the sector. The gains seen, so far, have been so spectacular, that there is an argument that the sector is now fully valued.

The rest of the equity market endured a rollercoaster ride before ending with modest falls. An early mark-up was frittered away as investors became concerned that a strong euro might weaken the pound and prevent a cut in interest rates later this week.

At one stage, the FTSE 100 index fell more than 70 points with not even an opening rise of almost 170 points in the Dow Jones industrial average able to offer comfort. The index eventually closed just 3.2 down at 5,879.4, while the FTSE 250 index also slipped 3.7 to 4,851.0.

Turnover of 839 million was bolstered by heavy trade in the enlarged British Petroleum after its agreed merger with Amoco. Dealers reported heavy demand with 187 million shares changing hands as the price advanced 21½p to 924½p. Brokers such as Merrill Lynch and Salomon Smith Barney have been waxing lyrical about the deal, while Goldman Sachs has been moved to raise its earnings forecast. Lehman



LucasVarity

Rice, chief executive of LucasVarity, who saw shares

lifted 7p to 207½p on the back of speculative buying

Brothers also rates the shares its "top pick" in the oil sector.

There were plenty of new year share tips during the rounds including Glaxo Wellcome, up 61p to £21.29, Allied Zurich, 47p dearer at 943½p, and Racal Electronics, 16½p firmer at 348½p.

Speculative buying lifted LucasVarity 7p higher to 207½p on turnover of almost 5 mil-

lion shares. Weekend reports claimed the automotive parts and aerospace group may soon find itself on the receiving end of a bid from US rival TRW Incorporated. In November, LucasVarity failed to transfer the company's domicile to the US after proposals were rejected by shareholders.

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ECONOMIC VIEW

JANET BUSH

LOURA BULLER/PA



Protests against the single currency suggest a Little Englander mentality to some and to others serve as a check against a growing air of inevitability

The euro school of thought that is inevitably wrong

Driving through a windswept south Devon just after Christmas, a jolly sight lightened the gloom for a moment. A small country hotel boasted a welcome for an exhaustive list of credit cards and currencies but proclaimed itself a euro-free zone on defiant little placards along the length of its garden wall.

To some, no doubt, this would be seen as an anachronistic display of Little Englandism, rendered ridiculous by the epochal happenings on New Year's Day in Frankfurt and even in the City of London. To others — notably the 94 per cent of Sun readers in a poll published yesterday who said that they would vote "no" in a referendum on joining the single currency — this piece of insubordination served as a useful mental check against a developing air of inevitability that Britain will, begrudgingly but eventually, join.

At the weekend, the press was full of such stuff. One recurring theme was that British business wants to join the euro and will covertly take Britain in, making a referendum of the people a sideshow. The Sunday Times reported that "Britain is entering Europe's single currency by stealth", as firms prepare to give workers all or part of their salaries in euros. This, the story related, was designed as a perk for employees who could enjoy European interest rates which are currently half those in Britain.

The lure of the euro mortgage is another, increasingly prevalent, strand of the inevitability school of thought. Despite the fact that opinion polls have shown rising popular opposition to the euro, particularly after the rows over tax har-

British borrowers may be able to enjoy interest rates at continental levels without giving away sovereignty

monisation before Christmas, the theory goes that the British, far more hungry for leverage, particularly for house purchase, than continental Europeans, would easily be persuaded to change their minds if they could take out a mortgage at 3 per cent.

The other tenet of the inevitability school is the simple observation that Britain cannot, must not, be left out. The leader in *The Independent on Sunday* told us that Britain's choice was between the euro and the pound, a "choice between realism and thimbreade romanticism". It proclaimed its belief that Britain should join because the euro would work, financially and politically (without saying why). It said — breathtakingly — that joining would involve a "fractious loss of sovereignty".

Do any of these "inevitability" themes stack up as serious arguments that may, in time, effect a seismic shift of interest rates, taxation, public spending, employment, social security, pensions and so on?

Englishmen may be disproportionately obsessed with owning their castles, and therefore borrowing costs, but this is trivial compared with ceding a far more than "fractious" measure of economic and political sovereignty.

In any case, who is to say that Britain will not, in the years ahead, enjoy interest rates as low as, or nearly as low as, European rates? It appears that, at last, Gordon Brown is preparing to switch the Government's inflation target from underlying retail

prices to the European Union standard harmonised index of consumer prices. On this measure, UK inflation stood at 1.4 per cent in November, only a whisker above the EU average. There is no reason why UK short-term interest rates cannot converge with European equivalents as long-term rates have done.

It is increasingly evident that, by virtue of a disintegrating world environment, 1990s

reform to the labour market and a far more credible monetary framework than membership of the exchange-rate mechanism provided, Britain's inflation behaviour has changed.

David Mackie, of JP Morgan, began an end-of-year research note with the resounding phrase "now that the battle against UK inflation has been won", noting that the rate of underlying inflation has been in a range between 2.0 per cent and 3.5 per cent for six years.

With an increasingly sure-footed Monetary Policy Committee in place, this record should be maintained. Indeed, Britain — outside Europe — arguably has a better monetary framework than Europe's which will now be in the thrall of a European Central Bank that appears determined to be secretive and, thanks to the Maastricht treaty, is strictly accountable to no electorate.

There is an important footnote to the issue of mortgages. Over the years many a Times reader has pointed the finger at thirtysomething economics columnists with large mortgages who assume that everyone in Britain likes ever lower

interest rates. That is not true for savers who are, in fact, far more numerous than borrowers. Pensioners, in particular, are fearful of the low interest rate nirvana because, compared with their counterparts on the Continent, they do not enjoy the cushion of generous pensions to make the loss of interest income bearable. If mortgages are an issue for the spin doctors who are campaigning for Labour's next election victory, savers, as well as borrowers, will have to be taken into account.

The last "inevitability" argument — that Britain must join because it is being left out — is as absurd as trying to get into a New York night club, knowing that the music is terrible and the drinks exorbitantly priced, simply because rejection by the bouncer on the door is socially unbearable.

The pro-euro camp has failed completely to counter the view — put repeatedly and in depth in these pages — that monetary union is astonishingly risky on economic grounds, for the simple reason that it instinctively thrills to the grand project of political union that will now move centre-stage.

The truth, however, is that the European project leaves most British people cold as it does many on the Continent. Europe's political élites have driven the euro forward despite such disinterest and Mr Blair may try to do the same. He should not, however, get away with the argument that just because the euro is fact, Britain's entry is inevitable. It is not. The onus is on Mr Blair to make a positive case for the euro or, if he cannot, be Cool Britannia enough to stay outside the club.

Job comfort

NOW Charlie Whelan has done the decent thing in the study with his revolver, expect the inevitable backlash and lots about how they shouldn't have sacked the messenger, only doing his job, quite a decent sort of chap and so on. In furtherance of this, I offer a bit of career guidance.

"They are advertising a post at Whitemhall. The salary, up to £63,490, would be an advance on what you were earning as Gordon's *apparatchik*, Charlie, plus 'you will play a key

role in the communication of government policy to the media,' so no change there.

You will "liaise with No 10 and other Government departments on cross-government presentation of policy", so less in-fighting this time. I'm afraid.

For Mike Ricketts, head of news at the Department of Trade and Industry, is off to look after the millennium bug-poor soul. Go for it, Charlie, it's right up your street. Let bygones be bygones.

MY THANKS to Cisco, which campaigns tirelessly for the smaller quoted company or SOC and has written to tell me that the long-awaited government report is ready. Better still, "the Treasury's Working Group on SOCs has now delivered its report to the Paymaster-General, Geoffrey Robinson". Somehow I feel he may no longer be that bothered.

Prophetic

CONFIRMATION, if ever we needed it, of the stage managing behind the euro-launch. Jacques Santer, President of



the Commission, put out some guff as trading started yesterday about how this was a sign of the currency's credibility, founded on a real culture of stability now widespread through the EU, etc, etc.

Santer's office also put out another release about how the success of the euro would lead to a single stock market, a single market for banking, etc, etc.

The speech, however, was earmarked for delivery later in the day. Whatever had actually happened on the foreign exchanges in the meantime.

Virgin fare

AFTER Attila the Hun, Moses is the latest quasi-historical figure to be azimuthed as management guru. Moses on Leadership, subtitled with breath-taking idiocy *Why Everyone is a*

Leader, is by Richard Koch, who claims to have invented something called the 80/20 Principle and "taken on" Tony Blair's Third Way.

Like one of those wincingly modern sermons that "relates the Bible to the modern world" — "In those days they didn't have aeroplanes or buses, so they had to ride on a donkey" — Koch links the journey to the Promised Land to the formation of a new company and a corporate culture.

As ever, there is the odd nugget of unintentional humour. "Moses never read *The One Minute Manager*. In a way this was a serious handicap."

MARTIN WALLER



"Would our profits sound better if we convert them to euros?"

AMV may prove a demanding buy for Omnicom's chiefs



nesses that AMV has been collecting. It owns Fishburn Hedges, the City PR firm, and Freud Communications, the consumer publicity outfit run by Matthew Freud. Omnicom has a big stake in Financial Dynamics, a City PR firm, and Lynne Franks, the consumer publicity outfit founded by the PR woman who was the model of *Absolutely Fabulous*. Don't tell me that these firms do not have rivals as clients.

Then there are AMV's clients. It is well known that its BT account, the UK's largest, with annual billings of more than £60 million, is up for review. The "It's good to talk" campaign is now five years old and many people think it is looking a bit tired. Anyone who is anyone is pitching and a shortlist is due to be released at the end of this week. (BT says that it will not publicise the shortlist, but keeping a bid on it, in the words of one BT executive "like being a Dutch boy with a very small finger in a very large dyke".)

Rumours in adland are that AMV's second-largest account, Sainsbury's, may be on the move. The latest campaign, with John Cleese, has not been well received and AMV needs to

brighten up the offer if it is to persuade the supermarket chain's new broom that the £30 million or so a year being spent at AMV would not be spent better elsewhere.

With David Abbott having left recently and Peter Mead nearing retirement, AMV is at a transitional stage. Omnicom will have to show all its management skills to prove that this buy was a good deal.

was buying, having been a 27 per cent shareholder since 1991, and the links with the BBDO network mean there is no problem integrating the business. However there are two problems that may bother Omnicom — conflicts of interest and business reviews.

Second is WPP with just over £500 million through its J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather networks. Marginally behind it is Interpublic, another US shop, which owns three agencies in London — McCann-Erickson, Lowe Howard-Spink and the awfully named Amunirati Puris Lintas, as well as Advantage, the sports marketing agency.

TWBA is the beast created by Omnicom's purchase of GGT Group, which went through last spring. GGT (née Gold Greenlees Trotter) ran into bother when it purchased BBDO (don't ask), the Franco-American group, and found that Procter & Gamble was about to desert BBDO's New York arm, Wells Rich Green. Unable to prevent the defection of £50 million worth of business, GGT's Mike Greenlees had little choice but to bow to Omnicom's advances.

Now, BBDO also owned a stake in BST, a small agency formed by the former Saatchi & Saatchi stars Paul Bairnsair and John Sharkey along with the ubiquitous creative guru Dave Trotter, who left soon after the agency was formed.

GGT decided to buy in the shares that it did not own in BST — so ending up with two "T's" but no Trotter. Sharkey left shortly after the deal was struck, leaving Omnicom with the thorny issue of trying to integrate four agencies into one network. It put Greenlees in charge of the international side and asked Bairnsair to bring the UK agencies together without the jolts showing.

So how has he done? Six months into the integration it looks like so far, so good. The GGT part of the agency had, as the Omnicom deal was struck, just won about £150 million of business from NatWest in what must be one of the most successful pitches in British advertising history. Since the deal, it has also been handed one of the most intriguing tasks in marketing, selling the euro to British businesses. It also had in Trevor Beattie, one of the highest-profile adenmen in a industry full of egos. Whether the self-proclaimed

Peter Mead, of AMV, whose clients include Sainsbury's

HSBC

Midland Bank

Notice to customers

New interest rates for mortgage customers.

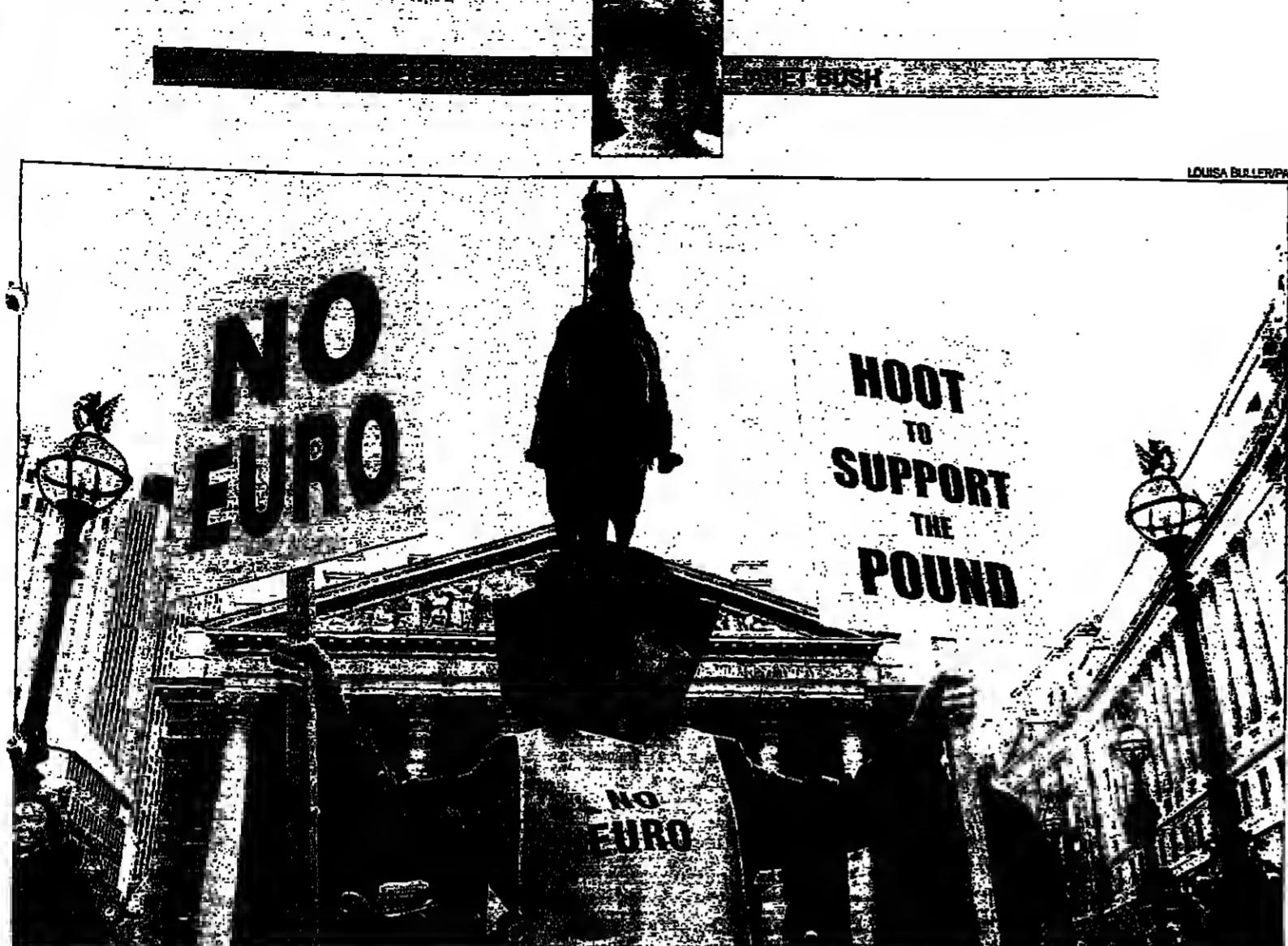
With effect from 4 January 1999 the interest rates for existing mortgage customers are decreased by 0.5% to:

	Old rate % p.a.	New rate % p.a.	APR%
Home Loan Rate	8.20	7.70	7.9
Home Improvement Loan Rate	10.20	9.70	10.0
House Mortgage Rate	8.20	7.70	7.9

Mortgage rates for new borrowers were effective from 22 December 1998.

Midland Bank plc, 27-32 Poole, London EC2P 2BX

HSBC is the brand of Midland Bank plc.



Protests against the single currency suggest a Little Englander mentality to some and to others serve as a check against a growing air of inevitability

The euro school of thought that is inevitably wrong

British borrowers may be able to enjoy interest rates at continental levels without giving away sovereignty

Driving through a windswept south Devon just after Christmas, a jolly sight lightened the gloom for a moment. A small country hotel boasted a welcome for an exhaustive list of credit cards and currencies but proclaimed itself a euro-free zone on defiant little placards along the length of its garden wall.

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To others – notably the 94 per cent of Sun readers in a poll published yesterday who said that they would vote 'no' in a referendum on joining the single currency – this piece of insouciance served as a useful mental check against a developing air of inevitability that Britain will, begrudgingly but eventually, join.

At the weekend, the press was full of such stuff. One recurring theme was that British business wants to join the euro and will covertly take Britain in, making a referendum of the people a sideshow. The Sunday Times reported that Britain is entering Europe's single currency 'by stealth' as firms prepare to give workers all or part of their salaries in euros. This, the story related, was designed as a perk for employees who could enjoy European interest rates which are currently half those in Britain.

The lure of the euro mortgage is another, increasingly prevalent, strand of the inevitability school of thought. Despite the fact that opinion polls have shown rising popular opposition to the euro, particularly after the rows over tax har-

mobilisation before Christmas, the theory goes that the British, far more hungry for leverage, particularly for house purchase, than continental Europeans, would easily be persuaded to change their minds if they could take out a mortgage.

The other tenet of the inevitability school is the simple observation that Britain cannot, must not be left out. The leader in *The Independent on Sunday* told us that Britain's choice was, between the euro and the pound, a 'choice between realism and threadbare romanticism'. It proclaimed that Britain should join because the euro would work financially and politically (without saying why). It said – breathtakingly – that joining would involve a 'fractional loss of sovereignty'.

Do any of these 'inevitability' themes stack up as serious arguments that may, in time, effect a seismic shift of British opinion in favour of the euro?

Let us take first the idea that British business is already effectively taking Britain into the euro by stealth. One important point is that business (however many leading chief executives are now, in one way or the other, on new Labour's payroll) is still not the Government. Companies are perfectly within their rights to pay their staff in euros if they want (bearing any exchange-rate risk that this may or may not entail). They are entitled, nay sensible, to be prepared to invoice and price in euros if they have considerable business in the single market. Multi-

national companies, in particular, already operate in an international environment and the economic policy of the national economy where they happen to be registered is not necessarily the most important component of their business strategy. It would be a sign of ineffectiveness if British businesses were not taking the euro seriously and preparing to use it more.

Far from worrying that business, by embracing the euro, will lead the way for rest of us, it could be argued that, the more business adapts to the euro, the less of an issue Britain joining becomes.

Turning to the attractions of

cheap euro mortgages (sadly never likely to be as cheap as the Geoffrey Robinson range), this surely cannot be mobilised as a reason for Britain irrevocably ceding control of decisions embracing interest rates, taxation, public spending, employment, social security, pensions and so on.

Englishmen may be disproportionately obsessed with owning their castles, and therefore borrowing costs, but this is trivial compared with ceding a far more 'fractional' measure of economic and political sovereignty.

In any case, who is to say that Britain will not, in the years ahead, enjoy interest rates as low as, or nearly as low as, European rates? It appears that, at last, Gordon Brown is preparing to switch the Government's inflation target from underlying retail

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Oh, and coffee, said the attendant, when he asked for another cup. 'You can have cake, if you like.' Qu'il mangent de brioche...

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'Very dull, I am sure, if you are calling from the Highlands with the power out for the third day running and a large fir tree through the car windscreen.'

Holy roller

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AMV may prove a demanding buy for Omnicom's chiefs

It is not so much a happy new year, as a happy new era in adland, as Omnicom completes its £346 million takeover of Abbott Mead Vickers. Omnipotent, as it is nicknamed in the trade, now not only owns AMV-BBDO, as the integrated agency will be called, but also the initial-ridden BMP DDB (Boase Massini Pollitt as was) and what is now called the TBWA network. All in all, means the Yank giant is now the most important player in UK advertising, controlling nearly \$800 million of annual revenues.

Second is WPP with just over £500 million through its J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather networks. Marginalised behind it is Interpublic, another US shop, which owns three agencies in London – McCann-Erickson, Lowe Howard-Spink and the awful-named Ammirati Puris Lintas, as well as Advantage, the sports marketing agency.

TWBA is the beast created by Omnicom's purchase of GGT Group, which went through last spring. GGT (née Gold Greenes Trout) ran into bother when it purchased BDDP (don't ask), the Franco-American group, and found that Procter & Gamble was about to desert BDDP's New York arm, Wells Rich Green. Unable to prevent the defection of £50 million worth of business, GGT's Mike Greenles had little choice but to bow to Omnicom's advances.

Now, BDDP also owned a stake in BST, a small agency formed by the former Saatchi & Saatchi stars Paul Bairnsfather and John Sharkey along with the ubiquitous creative guru Dave Trott, who left soon after the agency was formed. GGT decided to buy in the shares that it did not own in BST – so ending up with two 'T's but no Trott. Sharkey left shortly after the deal was struck, leaving Omnicom with the thorny issue of trying to integrate four agencies into one network. Will Greenles in charge of the international side and asked Bairnsfather to bring the UK agencies together without the joins showing.

So how has he done? Six months into the integration it looks like so far, so good. The GGT part of the agency had, as the Omnicom deal was struck, just won about £150 million of business from NatWest in what much be one of the most successful pitches in British advertising history. Since the deal, it has also been handed one of the most intriguing tasks in marketing, selling the euro to British business. It also had, in Trevor Beattie, one of the highest-profile admen in a industry full of egos. Whether the self-proclaimed



JASON NISSE

inventor of the "Hello Boys" campaign for Wonderbra is as effective as his PR is open to question, but his high profile was undoubtedly an asset as TBWA established itself as a merged entity.

At AMV-BBDO, the issues are rather different. AMV is the Saatchi & Saatchi of the 1990s, the most successful and creative large agency on the block. Omnicom knew what

it was buying, having been a 27 per cent shareholder since 1991, and the links with the BBDO network mean there is no problem integrating the business. However there are two problems that may bother Omnicom – conflicts of interest and business reviews.

In conflicts, WPP's management of the JWT and O&M networks have shown that you can own two competing agencies without clients walking out. Having three of the biggest ad houses in London is more of a headache, but Omnicom reckons that it might be able to juggle the conflicts without dropping too many clients. More troublesome may be the marketing services busi-

nesses that AMV has been collecting. It owns Fishburn Hedges, the City PR firm, and Freud Communications, the consumer publicity outfit run by Matthew Freud. Omnicom has a big stake in Financial Dynamics, a City PR firm, and Lynne Franks, the consumer publicity outfit founded by the PR woman who was the model of *Absolutely Fabulous*. Don't tell me that these firms don't have rivals as clients.

Then there are AMV's clients. It is well known that the BT account, the UK's largest, with annual billings of more than £60 million, is up for review. The 'It's good to talk' campaign is now five years old and many people think it is looking a bit tired. Anyone who is anyone is pitching and a shortlist is due to be released at the end of this week. (BT says that it will not publicise the shortlist, but keeping a lid on it, in the words of one BT executive "like being a Dutch boy with a very small finger in a very large dyke".

Rumours in adland are that AMV's second-largest account, Sainsbury's, may be on the move. The latest campaign, with John Cleese, has not been well received and AMV needs to brighten up the offer if it is to persuade Sainsbury's new broom that the £30 million or so a year being spent at AMV would not be spent better elsewhere.

With David Abbott having left recently and Peter Mead nearing retirement, AMV is at a transitional stage. Omnicom will have to show all its management skills to prove that this buy was a good deal.



Peter Mead, of AMV, whose clients include Sainsbury's

HSBC 
Midland Bank

Notice to customers

New interest rates
for mortgage
customers.

With effect from 4 January 1999 the interest rates for existing mortgage customers are decreased by 0.5% to:

	Old rate % p.a.	New rate % p.a.	APR%
Home Loan Rate	8.20	7.70	7.9
Home Improvement Loan Rate	10.20	9.70	10.0
House Mortgage Rate	8.20	7.70	7.9

Mortgage rates for new borrowers were effective from 22 December 1998

Midland Bank plc, 27-33 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

HSBC is the brand of Midland Bank plc

Equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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New group for small businesses launched

By RODNEY HOBSON

A RIVAL to existing small business organisations, such as the Federation of Small Businesses, the Forum of Private Business and the Small Business Bureau, has been set up by a management expert.

Jim Barrington, based on Merseyside, says he formed the Association for Small Businesses to offer the commercial benefit that he says he could not find in other small business organisations. However, he wants to build networks with the other bodies for mutual advantage.

Mr Barrington has spent most of his working life in business, including spells with training and enterprise councils and Business Links. He is now managing director of the Barrington Group, a Merseyside management consultancy.

Mr Barrington said that, when he was seeking ways in which small enterprises could be helped, he found that Business Links worked for well-established companies and that existing business bodies concentrated on lobbying, surveys and other services.

"I wanted an organisation that would save me money or help me to find a contract," he said.

He approached large companies and found they wanted to introduce themselves to small businesses and would give good discounts to win their custom. So he set up the association to obtain bargaining power for small businesses. "We act as an introduction agency or a corporate buyer," said Mr Barrington.

Insurance companies discount their policies, Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company, offers a 17 per cent reduction and the Royal Mail has given sponsorship and provides training on the economic use of postal services.

"The other organisations have their own strengths," said Mr Barrington, "so I want to form alliances with them and network through their workers direct training opportunities.

The association has a free newsletter and business guide, and is to set up a website to raise awareness. Mr Barrington used his own money to start the association, but has introduced annual membership fees of £119.99 for small businesses and £349.99 for large companies. Businesses that recruit members receive a percentage of their subscription. Inquiries: 0151-522 0874.

Sally Watts views a family enterprise with a methodical approach to growth

Gifts galore, from ceramics and glassware to sweatshirts and baseball caps, helped to make the Christmas just gone the best so far for Custom Print Merchandise (CPM), a small Welsh family business that began in 2,000 square feet of premises in Cardiff in 1986.

For most of this time, the business has relied just on T-shirts and sweatshirts, printed in-house. However, in the past four years, drawing on the skills of young graduates, a student and academic departments, it has taken off, expanding both markets and range.

"A company can only grow by extending its product range — retailers prefer this as it's cost-effective," says Paul Dinnick, managing director of CPM, who founded the business with his wife, Mary, now financial controller, and sister, Cynthia, his assistant. "Today we are

probably the only company in Britain that is designing, printing and decorating textiles, ceramics and glassware in-house. This is why we targeted exports."

After establishing CPM, Mr Dinnick — whose background is in marketing — decided that it was time to expand and that, to do so, he needed to establish three middle-tier roles, including a design studio manager and a market-



Paul Dinnick with T-shirts produced by his CPM giftware business, whose exports have grown rapidly

ing executive "to put flesh on the skeleton".

However, he did not act instantly. *"Preferring to move forward in a planned, evenly paced way,"* he applied to take on graduates, or Associates, through the Teaching Company Directorate (TCD). These, attached to the University of Central England (UCE), worked with the backing of Michael Vernon, head

of textiles, and his department, which he says has benefited hugely from the knowledge and experience gained.

One Associate, Emma Wilson, carried out a business review, set up the nucleus of a marketing strategy, planned a brochure and researched potential export outlets. Another, Paul Mayfield, helped to introduce computer-aided design

and four-colour process separation techniques.

With UCE's help, Mr Dinnick invested £35,000 in a design studio equipped with four Apple Macintosh computers, scanners and printers. He took on a design manager, Barry Barnfield, previously in silk-screen printing, and Julie Worrell, with a publishing background, as marketing executive.

The business is also benefiting from a much newer TCD scheme, College-Business Partnerships, which links companies with colleges of further and higher education.

Erwan Stephens, who has an Ordinary National Diploma in engineering and is working on day release for the Higher at Barry College, is replacing CPM's card index system with computerised management information for production planning, delivery dates and rush orders. This will lead to the third key role: production planning manager.

All this is paying off. Turnover has more than doubled to £2.8 million. The size of premises has increased 20,000 square feet after several moves. Staff have increased from 17 to 50, plus some 30 outworkers sewing and packing. Paul Dinnick's brother, Ralph, has joined CPM as production manager and Paul's son, Martin, who started at the bottom seven years ago, is now sales manager.

Exporting began to grow rapidly in 1998, partly as a result of exhibiting at Birmingham's export fairs. In a separate initiative, CPM won a contract to supply giftshops on a US fleet of cruise ships.

As well as duty-free shops and tourist attractions, the home market includes Liberty, Hamleys, Bhs, and Edinburgh Woollen Mills. Souvenirs will be on sale at the rugby World Cup in Cardiff this year.

Paul Dinnick says: "We're creating our own niche in the market. We're also looking at Investors in People, to develop staff skills for meeting the needs of tomorrow."

CPM: 01222 36634

Giftware firm learns to make the most of colleges' talent

Endorsed by the British Chambers of Commerce, *The Small Business Guide to IT* has been produced by Griffin, the invoice finance arm of Midland Bank. The free booklet explains jargon and includes practical advice on what to look for when investing in new technology. Call 0800 343435.

Barclays Bank says it opened 30,000 euro accounts ahead of the launch of the single European currency on January 1.

A second edition of the *Complete Idiot's Guide to the Internet* has been published by Prentice Hall after the first edition sold 12,000 copies. Information on new online services and creating a Web page is updated. Price: £18.49.

Europe's first Master of Business Administration degree for owner-managers, entrepreneurs and professionals in small and medium-sized firms begins at Manchester Business School this month. The course, supported by KPMG, the accountant, has specialist options such as managing a family business. Inquiries: 0161-275 6537.

A service to help solicitors' firms to examine their financial performance has been introduced by the UK 200 Group of Chartered Accountants, whose members have more than 180,000 clients, including many small and medium-sized professional practices. Inquiries: 01252 33351.

For the first time in more than five years more firms responding to the NatWest SBRT Quarterly Survey of Small Business in Britain reported a downturn in annual sales rather than a rise. Only 37 per cent of small firms said that their sales turnover was higher in the third quarter of 1998 than it had been in the same period in 1997, whereas 43 per cent said sales were lower.



"I'm getting in shape to fight the recession"

Storey calls for state aid for training at SMEs

INSTEAD of believing — as many in Government privately do — that small firms are irrational, even stupid, not to train their workers, Government should stop applying "large firm solutions" to small enterprises and offer their workers direct training opportunities.

David Storey, director of Warwick Business School's centre for SMEs, believes it is just as rational for smaller firms not to train as it is for larger firms to do so: training represents investment for the future, whereas smaller enterprises — with short-term horizons and limited resources — need immediate solutions to immediate problems.

Professor Storey was speaking in Stockholm, where he received an award of \$50,000.

they should be compensated for any costs they incur in training their workers."

In a business with an owner and a single manager, Professor Storey suggested that the owner is unlikely to fund the manager's training, as the latter can only gain promotion by changing jobs — at the owner's expense.

Entrepreneurs, he went on, learn by doing, solving actual problems as they occur. "Entrepreneurs and managers in small businesses

appear to learn most effectively in a highly experiential manner. They are unlikely to learn through formal classes and instead require 'bite-sized chunk' answers to real problems which they are currently experiencing."

Professor Storey also urged governments to collate their vast amounts of information, of value to small firms, and to create "information intermediaries" — whether state-subsidised or not, which would draw on data bases to handle questions on tax legislation and such like. Owners need immediate answers, lacking time to absorb massive detail.

His final recommendation was for a new approach to business failure, such as exists in the US, which regards failure as a "chance event" that provides experience and can lead to success.

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TENDERS AND CONTRACTS

THE GATEWAY TO WORK

Private/Voluntary Sector Led Pilots

The Government has announced the piloting of the Single Work Focused Gateway (SWFG) to the benefits system for all working age claimants. A radical DfEE-DSS initiative to help people back into work rather than writing them off to life on benefit, the SWFG will provide a streamlined and efficient system in which there is a single point of access to welfare, and in which everyone who has the potential to work is provided with help to find it.

Wishing to tap into the expertise, innovation and efficiency that the private and voluntary sectors can offer, the Government is inviting bids, led by private and/or voluntary organisations, in four pilot areas:

Suffolk

Leeds

North Nottinghamshire

North Cheshire

Successful applicants will be expected to work in partnership with the Benefits Agency, Employment Service, local authorities and other relevant bodies to ensure a seamless and high quality service.

These pilots will start in November 1999. Contracts will be for up to three years with the possibility of extension for up to a further two years.

Private/voluntary sector organisations which are interested in leading any of these pilots, or would like to find out more, are invited to express their interest now. The closing date for expressions of interest is 22nd January 1999.

A briefing pack will be despatched on request to interested organisations. This will provide further information about the pilots, details of the information events and of the procurement process. Information events will be held from mid-January 1999, where organisations can find out more, talk to others about what might be involved and explore how they may wish to work with each other collaboratively to deliver this initiative.

The briefing pack also sets out the information which must be submitted by organisations interested in proceeding in the competition, against which a shortlist will be established. The information requested in the briefing pack must be returned by noon 22nd February 1999 in order to be considered.

To find out more and/or request a briefing pack, please contact Helen Carey at the address below:

Single Work Focused Gateway Project, Level 4 Mayfield Court, 56 West Street Sheffield, S1 4EP. Tel: 0114 259 7070. Fax: 0114 259 7266.

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Cast out of sad memory

GALLERIES: Richard Cork interprets the haunting shapes and shadows that dominate new London exhibitions by Rachel Whiteread and Kerry Stewart

Looking at the year ahead I am relieved to predict that Rachel Whiteread's Holocaust Memorial will be among the outstanding art events. For too long the project looked doomed. Endlessly postponed and mired in the murky strife of Austrian politics, her monumental sculpture is now scheduled for unveiling in the late autumn. I hope to be there to see how this steel and concrete structure relates to its sensitive context: the Judenplatz in Vienna, the ancient heart of the city's beleaguered Jewish community.

Maquettes and photographs of the Memorial *in situ* show an austere, sealed-up building, its rigidly ordered sides resembling library walls facing outwards. But Whiteread's latest exhibition, her first at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery, brings the full-scale physical impact of the Memorial much nearer.

Walking into the largest gallery, we see three double-sided bookshelves in white plaster. Pacing down the corridors between them is akin to entering the Holocaust Memorial and finding, with a shock, that the shelves within have been shorn of the books that once filled them.

Not that Whiteread stresses the emotive charge of the

stripped shelves. She simply cast *Untitled (Book Corridors)* in negative, making the spaces between each shelf jut out as solid presences. But, the void where the books should sit has the capacity to unsettle, making us wonder why they seem to have been destroyed.

Memories are triggered of the book burnings undertaken

'One is reminded of the Nazis' book burnings'

by the Nazis, who knew only too well how to erase history. Despite everything achieved by computer technology and the Internet in recent years, books are still the prime repository of knowledge, and the sight of Whiteread's denuded shelves is bound to provoke an indignant sense of loss.

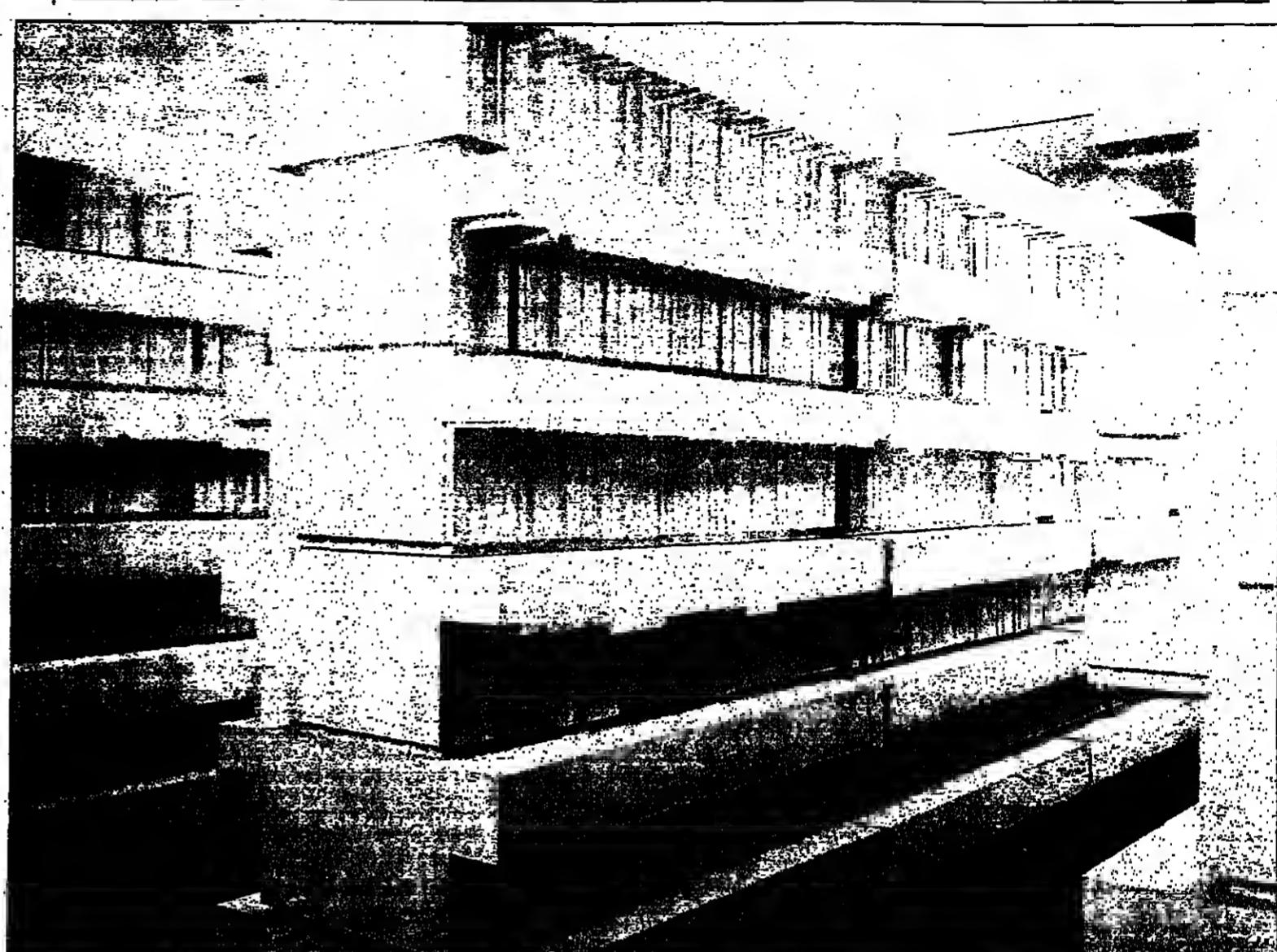
Books can also be intimate objects, especially when found in homes where they are re-

ferred to all the time. In this respect *Untitled (Book Corridors)* relates to Whiteread's consistent preoccupation with domestic forms. Ever since she found her identity as an artist by casting a wardrobe, making it into a place redolent of both privacy and fear, this remarkably singleminded sculptor has stayed close to the household environment.

The most seductive exhibit in her impressive d'Offay show, *Untitled (Fiction)*, is a smaller work where three bare shelves project from the wall like a relief. This time Whiteread allows the missing books to leave discreet stains of bleached yellow, red, green and blue on the plaster. They soften what would otherwise be a formidably severe piece, and disclose her subtlety yet lyrical feeling for colour.

Throughout the rest of the survey, she reins in sensuousness and opts instead for reticence and pallor. The whiteness of the tripartite *Untitled (Elongated Plinths)* accentuates the funereal aspect of these low-lying slabs. They call to mind the sterile surfaces where corpses might be laid out for clinical examination.

Unlike the brittle and pilaged *Book Corridors*, though, all three plinths are cast in plastic and appear inviolate. But this bland, pristine quality



Rachel Whiteread's *Untitled (Book Corridors)*: the void where the books should be prompts onlookers to wonder why they seem to have been destroyed

does not make them reassuring. They are as bound up with mortality as Whiteread's earlier *Bath* sculptures, and prove that her imagination is still strongly affected by a graveyard melancholy.

She never allows this obsession to become mawkish or self-indulgent, however. The prevailing emphasis in the

show rests on emotional control, and Whiteread's characteristic rigour is seen at its toughest in *Untitled (Nine Tables)*. The cast concrete employed here reminded me of the equally grey substance she used in *House*, the most inexplicable and mourned victim of the British weakness for vandalising contemporary art.

At first, it would be easy to see this new sculpture as nine fragments from the bulldozed *House* itself, each rounded into an identical form as compact as a heavy suitcase. In reality, they are cast from the empty spaces underneath stacking tables, the kind of nondescript furniture found in any large institution.

But by the time Whiteread has carried out her deceptively straightforward strategy these banal, utilitarian objects have been transformed into strangely uncanny presences. They rest on the floor in ranks, like anonymous tombs in a cemetery. Their origins as tables can only be guessed at, for Whiteread has brought about a thoroughgoing, infinitely enigmatic metamorphosis.

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The human figure, so often the basis of this young Scottish sculptor's earlier work, is no more visible in her other large exhibit. Stewart gives scant indication of who or what might be lurking beneath

the glacial feeling of death running through this show

also pervades the most memorable of Kerry Stewart's exhibit at the Stephen Friedman Gallery.

The largest room is inhabited by one sculpture. Peering into the darkened space, we gradually make out the spectral shape of a car. It has been covered in snow, and the coat of frozen provides threats to obliterate all the remaining identifiable features.

Since the window-panes are shattered, no one can tell whether the driver or passengers remain inside. But the possibility of their incarceration intensifies when we realise that the wheels are paralysed in a piled-up snowdrift. The vehicle seems long since abandoned, and yet the misgivings about continued human occupancy are strengthened by the eeriest aspect of the sculpture: the headlights obs-



Kerry Stewart's icy "car" sculpture: hinting at the disturbing possibility of incarceration

nately shining through their clogged glass shields.

Partially obscured, they nevertheless make the car seem even more of a lethal prison cell than before. Although we can walk right round this sculpture, deftly made from a acrylic-painted

fibreglass, it resembles

in the end a traumatic still from a frustrating, nightmarish movie by the Coen brothers or David Lynch.

The human figure, so often the basis of this young Scottish sculptor's earlier work, is no more visible in her other large exhibit. Stewart gives scant

indication of who or what might be

lurking beneath

the glacial feeling of death

pervades

both

shows

sculptures, the phantasmic quality of this apparition seems to belong to some childhood dreamworld. She is undoubtedly fascinated by the notion of viewing adult life through children's eyes, and a diary-like confession inscribed above the door leading to *Untitled (Hairy Being)* is written in an oddly unformed hand: "I was living a sad life, always worried and anxious, with many fears. One day I decided to look up at the ceiling. Maybe it was the newness or the disorientation, but the lower down things couldn't get up that high."

The words' curious blend of naivety and wry humour typifies Stewart's approach. Sadness is offset by self-mocking awareness of absurdity, and in this respect *Untitled (Hairy Being)* is a preposterous comic conceit. Its air of concealment, though hints at a darker, more furtive and helpless meaning as well — an interpretation made more plausible when we encounter the third sculpture on view.

Crouching on the floor in a fetal position, *Follower* finally allows the human form to be revealed. The barefoot young woman appears casual at first. The longer we look at her, though, the more wan she becomes. With knees drawn up tightly against her chest, and arms enclosing them in a defensive lock, she seems hunched rather than assured.

The title of the sculpture implies that she is listening to a leader's speech. But the message makes her feel oppressed, not enlightened. Everything about the stance she adopts, and her stunned facial expression, suggests that she is in thrall to a domineering, perhaps ruthless, cult figurehead.

Stewart's starting-point, apparently, was footage of the followers who blindly obeyed Charles Manson's murderous imperatives. So when this sculpture casts aside concealment at last, we only find someone incapable of releasing herself from an entrapment as cruel, in its psychological tyranny, as the snow-enshrouded car.

• Rachel Whiteread, at Anthony d'Offay Gallery, 21 & 24 Dering St, London W1 (0171-599 4100) to Jan 13; Kerry Stewart, at Stephen Friedman Gallery, 22 Old Burlington St, W1 (0171-441 1434) to Jan 23

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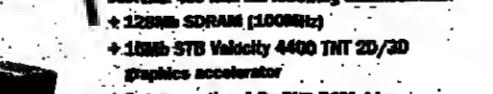
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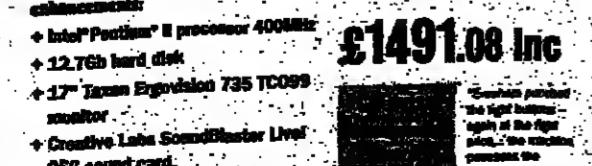
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Athur Hughes (1832-1915) was just too young to be part of the original Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in 1848, but he knew about the activities of such painting "brothers" as Rossetti, Millais and Holman Hunt almost immediately, being then at the Royal Academy Schools from which they had all recently graduated. By 1850 he was familiar with their journal *The Germ*, and by 1852 he had met Madox Brown, Rossetti and Millais.

From the evidence in the revelatory show of his work at the Museum of Richmond, he had begun painting in a Pre-Raphaelite manner even earlier, being then at the Royal Academy Schools from which they had all recently graduated. By 1850 he was familiar with their journal *The Germ*, and by 1852 he had met Madox Brown, Rossetti and Millais.

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LISTINGS

Cirque du Soleil returns

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargre

LONDON

THE TEMPEST: David Calder is excellent in Adrien Nabb's colourful RSC production from Stratford. Barbican (0171-632 8891). Open tonight, 7.30pm. £12.

ALEGRA: The breathtakingly exotic Cirque du Soleil returns to London for

the fourth consecutive year with further prodigious feats of contortion, tight-rope walking, fire-eating and clowning. Albert Hall (0171-588 8212). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. £12.

PLG GARDENERS ARTISTS: The Park of Life Gardeners return to the Park with an annual showcase of their musical talents. Tonight (8pm) the Marais Ensemble performs Justin War and Light, followed at 7.30pm by the Royal Ballet, harp, David Ball, violin, and Pauline O'Connor, playing works by Schoenberg, Elliott Carter et al.

Purcell Room (0171-960 4242).

PIANO CONCERT: Jean Eynon and his wacky touch and dynamic shading to the evening's all-Schubert programme featuring Liszt's arrangement of *Kuci Nacht* and *Estuaria* from *Winterreise*. Wigmore Hall (0171-930 2417). Tonight, 7.30pm. £12.

ELSEWHERE

MANCHESTER: Classic wartime hits are brought to life by the Glenn Miller Orchestra and the Jiving Lindy Hoppers in tonight's concert which includes a special section on *Midnight Serenade*. Stages of the Arts and Life Brown Club. Colin Anthony and Jan Messer provide vocals backed by the Midnight Serenaders. Buxton (0161-307 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm. £12.

David Calder stars in the RSC's *Tempest*, Barbican

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jerome Kington's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ■ Some seats available ■ Seats at all prices

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE: The D'Oyly Carte Company comes to the West End with Gilbert and Sullivan's joyful adventures with pirates, policemen and a cross-dressing major-general. Queen's (0171-934 5041).

CHICAGO: Maria Friedman injects new blood into the hit revival of *Kander and Ebb's* musical about murder andicide. Adelphi (0171-344 0059).

DICK BARTON SPECIAL AGENT: Journey back to the 1940s with the famous old radio thriller, brought to life by the BBC's *Special Agent* Warehouse. Croydon (0181-682 4050).

THE GOBLIN: David Burren and Gaye Broadway star in *Sydney Pyne* and *Cathy Shostak's* uplifting new musical about the man-made monster who runs amok. New End (0171-794 0022).

JESUS MY BOY: Tom Conti in John Dowd's subtly amusing comedy giving Joseph's side of the story. Apollo, W1 (0171-741 6701/2311).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

THE ACID HOUSE (18): Three dark comic tales of drugs, drink and hallucination from Irvin Welsh. An indigestible onslaught. With Stephen McCole, Ewan Bremner, and Kevin McKidd. Director, Paul McCrane.

STICKMAN (18): French bourgeois family ambitions itself, Mandy shrivelling tempestuously across ensemble cast. Director, Francis Ozon.

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (P/C): Patrick Stewart's Enterprise crew come to the rescue of a possible race who have taken over the ship of the *Enterprise*. With Dennis Murphy, F. Murray Abraham. Director, Jonathan Frakes.

CURRENT

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15): Will Smith's lawyer tumbles unwillingly into the world of political Espionage and last-ditch thriller, with Gene Hackman and Jon Voight.

THE MIGHTY (PG): Endearing tale of two cut-throat children, one hulking, the other crippled, who pool their resources. Peter Chorum directs.

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15): Robin Williams wades through the unlikely trying to find his loved ones

Technically dazzling, but mawkish by both script, with Annabella Sciorra, Cuba Gooding Jr and Matt Von Sauer. Director, Vincent Ward.

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (12): Splendid narration, but there's not much for kids in the biblical story of Moses leading the Israelites to the promised land. Voices talents include Val Kilmer and Ralph Fiennes.

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U): Everyone's favourite talking pig faces the horrors of a possible race to the top. With Meryl Streep, Catherine McCormack and Kathy Burke, director, Paul O'Connor.

FLASH HOUR (15): LA and Hong Kong cops join forces on a high-stakes *Roulette* game, entwined by Asian legend Jackie Chan and movie star Chris Tucker. Director, Brett Ratner.

TWILIGHT (15): Down-and-out private eye (Pierce Brosnan) is forced into a major mystery. Inconsequential plot, but a wonderful cast. With Gene Hackman, Susan Sarandon, James Garner. Director, Robert Benton.

ARTS



An impressive dancer, but can he act? Carlos Acosta, the Royal Ballet's new Cuban star, makes his debut as Colas in Ashton's *La Fille mal gardée*

Man in the mirror

Even before five male dancers suddenly announced they were leaving mid-season, the Royal Ballet knew it had a problem with men. It had already lost two of its biggest stars when Tetsuya Kumakawa flew the nest (to spread his wings with his own Japanese-backed ensemble) and Irek Mukhamedov reached the end of his career as a full-time member of the company (he is now billed as a guest artist). And with suitable male partners in short supply, the Royal was relying on a foreign visitor, the Kirov's Igor Zelenky, to rescue Doreen Barwell.

Acosta's good points are very good indeed. He makes choreography look big and important, and Ashton's excursions into flashy, virile writing sit very well on Acosta's body. His gorgeous feet add real dazzle to his beats and he jumps with the power of a stallion. But his idea of characterisation is to grin indiscriminately, like a man in a toothpaste

ad, and his obvious self-regard gets in the way of telling the choreographer's story. Acosta was partnering Belinda Hatley, who was also making her debut in the ballet. Her Lise didn't quite connect, and in the early stages one wondered if she wasn't put out by Acosta's narcissism — his Colas seemed more interested in duetting with his own reflection than in winning the hand of the winsome Lise.

Hatley is a lovely dancer,

but her performance here was undistinguished and there was little amorous interaction between her and Acosta. Act III did bring happier news as Hatley bloomed, her Lise finally stirred into a flutter of romantic excitement, and Acosta, somewhat belatedly, discovered the partnering spirit.

Young love, of course, at the heart of Ashton's sunny bucolic comedy, but it is the character of Alain who tugs at the heartstrings. The simpleton son of a prosperous vineyard owner, he may have money but he will never have love. It is a sad clown of a role, and when Jonathan Howells gets the part he is likely to be a physical comedian

Howells has the grace of Chaplin and the profound expressiveness of the great French mime Jean-Louis Barrault. His impulsive bursts of childlike frolicking fill him with radiant joy and his face beams expectantly at the sight of the maypole, with its exhilarating promise of merriment. Yet within minutes he is cut to the quick by the harvesters' cruel mockery, the emotional wounding cruelly etched in his face.

And as he gazes forlornly at the diamond ring which has suddenly lost its purpose, Howells reminds us that not everything in Ashton's idealised countryside is blessed. In this role, at least, the Royal Ballet has found the perfect man.

DEBRA CRAINE

Right, said Frédéric

CONCERT

DANCE

COPENHAGEN

OPERA premiere
More sugar please
I

THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 5 1999

EDUCATION

Performers speak out

Give our children what we received

As a government committee ponders the sad state of arts education, Simon Tait asks performers and writers how their own offspring fare

Music, says the opera singer Lesley Garrett, is an expression of the community. "It's where I got my music from, in the heavy-industry communities of South Yorkshire. But school as a community is the essence of a child's life, so music must happen there." These days, however, it mostly doesn't. And with arts teaching taking an increasingly peripheral place in the curriculum, and the number of specialist teachers dwindling, it is unlikely to.

The Education Secretary, David Blunkett, was accused of betraying our creative talent when he announced a year ago that education would be centred on numeracy and literacy. He responded by setting up a committee for creative and cultural education, and commissioning Professor Kenneth Robinson to write a report on the place of the arts in the curriculum, which is expected later this month.

Artists themselves are rarely asked for an opinion, though, and many owe their careers — careers, which contribute substantially to the £5 billion a year earned by the creative industries in Britain — to the influence of enlightened teachers. Today, according to a new report by the Royal Society of Arts, the chances of finding a cultural Mr Chips are becoming slimmer by the year.

It's a point the Arts Council's education director, Pauline Tambling, has been trying to get across as she works with curriculum planners and with Robinson. "Young children rarely say 'they can't paint' or 'dance or sing', but many older people who have not been encouraged to be creative are negative about their own abilities," she says. Garrett was lucky: there

were professional musicians in her family, and she went to a school specialising in creative teaching, so that German and French lessons were peppered with music and art as well as language. "I would not be doing what I am if it wasn't for that school," she says.

For her own children, Jeremy, five, and Chloe, four, at nursery school in North London, she had to find and pay for education with the creative input she wants for them. "In my day, creative work often happened out of school hours. I couldn't wait for 4 o'clock when there would be rehearsals for the play or the choir. Now teachers have such a struggle with paperwork that they don't have time."

The composer Howard Skempton, Birkirkhead choir school taught him music, and his 13-year-old son Sam goes to a comprehensive where the arts are an important part of the curriculum. "But emphasis on the arts is entirely dependent on the enthusiasm of the head teacher," he says. "It is ridiculous that he has to sacrifice something else in order to include something which should be fundamental."

Any Haygarth, the actor familiar from many television series including the current *Where The Heart Is*, left school at 15 to become a fruit porter, but he had had the benefit of an enlightened head teacher who introduced him to Shakespeare and organised theatre outings. His children are Becky, 12, and Katie, 14. Recently he joined them on an outing from their Tunbridge Wells school to see a travelling theatre company known for education work. "It was a Hungarian play, inappropriate for kids; we couldn't follow the

plot, and the teachers weren't properly prepared," he says.

The importance of creative teaching in school is simple. All animals have five senses, but we have a sixth sense that recognises beauty. If you don't teach children how to use that ability 'you're shutting them out of a natural entitlement.'

The sculptor Antony Gormley says Blunkett's move had "seriously disillusioned" arts and music teachers. But the RSA report, *The Disappearing Arts*, shows that they were already disillusioned: last year recruitment for teach-

ing art is down 12 per cent, and for music 23 per cent.

"All education should always have creativity integrated as a leading force because it teaches people who they are, and helps them in getting to know how they can explore themselves visually," he says.

"It could be in dance, performance, music, it doesn't matter if it isn't painting, but creativity is at the core of learning."

He sends his children, Ivo, 16, Guy, 13, and Paloma, 11, to a progressive fee-paying school which has a reputation for design teaching.

"Lily is a good artist," he says. "But there's very little painting or drawing. It's been

desired," he says. "If I knew of a school that took it seriously I might move them, but do you know of one? It's not enough to have teachers who can teach the arts. We should have artists who can teach."

Gormley's fellow Royal Academician, the painter and engraver Christopher Le Brun, also sends his children, Luke, 14, Lily, 12, and Edmund, 8, to a Dulwich fee-paying school which has a reputation for design teaching.

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The novelist Jim Crace's two

children, Tom, 17, and Lauren,

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Grammar School where the

most up-to-date literature for

study was Lawrence's *Seven*

a huge disappointment. The

value of design is demonstrable, but you can't demonstrate the value of fine art so it is seen as secondary to design. But fine art is the primary art, not definable by words. The cultural industries in this country have never been bigger, while the standards of drawing have never been weaker."

The novelist Jim Crace's two

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Pillars of Wisdom, whereas Tom is currently reading *Arwood and Heaney*. But narrative is not taught.

Crace believes that learning narrative is vital. "The human being is the only animal that can recall the past and imagine the future, and you become socially successful if you have a narrative sense, because then you are able to talk. You can get through life without mental arithmetic, but not without a narrative sense. To ignore these chambers of children's minds and hearts is a huge mistake."

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Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*

THEATRE: The Cardboard Citizens company plays to a select audience — the homeless. Hettie Judah reports

Get your big issues here

thoughtful citizenry, but the fact is that we would all benefit from having our complacent worldview shaken up from time to time. Theatre is an ideal medium for such provocation, but how to use it without resorting to didacticism?

The answer, according to the Brazilian guru Augusto Boal, is to develop a form of theatre based around inclusion, rather than alienation; to let the stage become a forum in which the audience

becomes part of the action and, by extension, part of the solution. A necessarily tragic scenario is presented, and the "spectators" are invited to intervene at any point and attempt to change the course of the action for the better by taking the part of the central character. So successful has this idea become in Brazil that Boal has developed a form of legislation based on forum theatre, essentially placing the law-making process in the hands of the people.

Boal visited Britain last month to display his legislative theatre to a packed audience. While the demonstration worked on one level — intervention was enthusiastic and laws were "passed" by the bucketload — the whole spectacle left a rather unpleasant taste in one's mouth. Instead of becoming an arena for debate, the hall succumbed to what was essentially mob rule because the audience, which consisted almost entirely of middle-class, liberal, white North Londoners, was in consensus on almost every issue raised: anti-Ofsted, pro-pedestrianisation and so on. The exercise became so terrifyingly tribal that it seemed rather an argument against democracy than a debate for it.

The trick to pulling off forum theatre is, in getting the balance right: entertaining enough to hold an audience, difficult enough to provoke them and located in such a way that a variety of opinions are elicited from a diverse group of people. One company that manages to do this with considerable aplomb is Cardboard Citizens, which has just completed its eighth national tour in seven years.



Cardboard Citizens: Neil Breman (left) and Dele Adagumodo

You probably wouldn't have heard of any of the cast, the company's texts are not available in all good bookshops, and it is very unlikely that you will either have seen the tour advertised or managed to catch a show. Cardboard Citizens is a homeless people's theatre company that plays to homeless, day centres and cold

weather shelters during the winter months. Not only does it play to a homeless audience, but the company is constituted entirely of actors who are or have at one point been homeless.

Cardboard Citizens' shows are anything but right-on or to-

kenetic: the scenarios presented are true moral brain-teasers

Without question the company's background helps its players to inspire a certain amount of respect in its audiences, but the real success comes through encouraging people to think, rather than ordering them about. "At its best we start a debate and leave that debate behind us for a few days," Jackson says. "People don't instantly forget a visit by Cardboard Citizens."

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International technology company seeks general commercial lawyer with 2-6 years' experience, gained either at a law firm or in-house. Separating business operations across Europe you will join a young team with a flat structure, working closely alongside the commercial business. Strong commercial, drafting and negotiation skills are essential, as well as an appetite for handling a diverse commercial caseload. (Ref. 25431)

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IS WORK A WINTER WONDERLAND?

CONSTRUCTION/PFI To £55,000

The major niche practice is exceptionally appealing whether you have 3-4 years' non-contentious construction and PFI pg, or are just starting out as a litigator with 0-1 year's pg. Either way, there are top training and prospects at the friendly firm. Ref T38677

VENTURE CAPITAL To £Partner

Time to take a big step up by joining this well-known medium-sized City firm as number two in its venture capital group. A following, while advantageous, is not vital, but good experience acting for management teams or venture capitalists is. How you go on from here will be very much up to you. Ref T60987

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT To £Flexible

It's no wonder so many lawyers are moving into professional support, when top 10 City firms like this offer attractive salary packages in return for flexible working and no more timetables. Ideal if you have experience of pensions, corporate, banking, employees' incentives or compensation. Ref T22442

CORPORATE TAX To £75,000

Sold proof of how desirable quality corporate tax lawyers are. This top 20 US firm offers an amazing all round package including City-busting salary, if you have 0-4 years' high-quality pg. Working with one of the leading names in international tax, the only way from here is up. Ref T61038

CONSTRUCTION LITIGATION To £65,000

Whether you are a 2-5 years qualified construction litigator, or a general commercial litigator with some construction experience and enthusiasm to specialise, this top 10 City firm is ideal, as it has the client base and back-up to ensure you gain all the skills you need to guarantee a great future. Ref T29569

DEFENDANT INSURANCE/MEDICAL NEG To £58,000

One of the country's leading NHS, medical and professional negligence practice is looking to build up its expertise in its London office, requiring defendant insurance and medical negligence specialists with 1-2 or 4-6 years' pg who will quickly find themselves noticed and rewarded. Ref T61248

PROPERTY To £60,000

Commercial property lawyers with 3-4 years' pg will be given their head at this focused niche firm, which will probably bring you in as a partner and ensure your pg reflects your status. Good hours and a supportive atmosphere go some way to explaining why hardly anyone leaves here. Ref T68307

EMPLOYMENT To 2Partner

Few firms have as high a profile as this top London practice, and that is reflected in the quality of its work, which an employment partner will find to be precedent-setting, challenging, interesting and often in the news. This is an exciting opportunity to build up a practice which compares favourably with any other. Ref T44274

IP/IT To £150,000

This niche City firm boasts one of the best IP/IT practices around, and represents an outstanding opportunity for a non-contentious partner keen to join a firm which will give you the freedom to develop as you want. A following is not essential, although the firm would be interested in a team. Ref T60160

RANKING To £62,000

This medium-sized City firm is renowned for giving its lawyers unparalleled training, development, responsibility and pg, and, as a result, has one of the lowest turnover rates around. A banking lawyer with 2-4 years' pg will also enjoy a broad mix of banking and financing work, including PFI. Ref T47985

CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL To £65,000

With Spain and Latin America becoming increasingly important markets, this unique top 10 City firm offers an outstanding future to a corporate/commercial lawyer with excellent language skills, or Spanish lawyers who have requested. Your expertise should guarantee rapid promotion. Ref T60306

EMPLOYMENT To £58,000

The national firm's London office has a breadth of clients second to none and a similar commitment to ensuring its lawyers enjoy a high degree of responsibility for them. If you are an employment lawyer with 0-4 years' contentious and non-contentious pg you will have every chance to progress your career. Ref T60058

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Nick Creed or Debbie Offenbach on 0171 523 3822 (0181 830 7475 evenings/weekends) or write to ZMBB Industry, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL. For North vacancies contact Bernadette Nolan on 0161 234 4908 (evenings/weekends 0161 684 9550). Please write to ZMBB North, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester M1 3LF. Confidential fax 0161 238 4910. E-mail bernadette.nolan@zarakgroup.com

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A NEW YEAR
A NEW CONTRACT

ENTERTAINMENT

Top media practice of major City law firm needs solicitor for 3-6 month contract. Will have 2-4 years' pg in TV and film work concentrating on production, distribution agreements and IP rights. To start immediately. Ref 60597

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING

National office of building society needs a team of four solicitor/legal executives to assist with large commercial conveyancing exercises. Immediate start for 6 month contract. Ref 61178

COMPLIANCE

Financial institution requires lawyer 1-5 years' pg to work within the compliance and legal department. Must have recent IMRO experience. 2 month contract to start immediately. Ref 61298

PLANNING/ENVIRONMENT

Highly regarded planning and environment team of this major City firm urgently requires solicitor 1-5 years' pg for immediate start. To assist with heavy workload whilst looking comment. Ref 61338

COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

Engineering company seeks 2-8 years' qualified solicitor/barrister for office based in Wiltshire. Candidates must have experience of large scale contracts as well as a strong personality and the ability to work on an unsupervised basis. 6 month contract to start as soon as possible. Ref 61211

PENSIONS KNOW-HOW

Major international law firm needs pensions solicitor/barrister to perform support role for 6 month maternity leave. Must have 3-5 years' pg to deal with employee benefits and pensions work. To start February. Ref 60942

ENERGY/PROJECTS

Top City seeks 2-5 years' qualified solicitor with experience of energy work in particular oil and gas, electricity and power generation. Must be a confident drafter to work on an independent basis. To assist with burgeoning workload. Ref 60734

PROPERTY

Commercial firm seeks property locator to start as soon as possible for a 6 month maternity leave cover. 2-6 years' pg locator. Must have up to date experience. Ref 60760

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Leading City firm seeks commercial property solicitor 2-4 years' pg. Maternity leave cover to start January until October. Will be dealing with landlord and tenant issues. Ref 61249

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Leading International City firm seeks 2-5 years' qualified solicitor to work on a contract basis for up to 18 months. Relevant experience of product liability work essential. Immediate start. Ref 61508

COMMERCIAL

FMCG company based in West London needs solicitor/barrister 2-4 years' pg for 6 month contract. IT experience preferable especially knowledge of development and distribution agreements. Challenging role with international work. Immediate start for 6 month contract. Ref 61508

IT

Telecommunications company based in the South East requires solicitor/barrister for a 6 month contract. Work predominantly IT/telecoms, should have experience of maintenance agreements and quality management. 2-3 years' pg to start immediately. Ref 61287

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Carl Freedman or Daniel Anderson on 0171 405 6032 (0181 830 7475 evenings/weekends) or write to ZMBB Industry, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL. For North vacancies contact Bernadette Nolan on 0161 234 4908 (evenings/weekends 0161 684 9550). Please write to ZMBB North, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester M1 3LF. Confidential fax 0161 238 4910. E-mail bernadette.nolan@zarakgroup.com

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LAW



Dan Brennan, QC. "He wants everything done yesterday," a Bar source says. "He is very action-oriented. And he can be a bit waspish."

'Our profession will face great challenges'

A radical leads the Bar into 2000. Profile by Frances Gibb

Dan Brennan, QC, knows what it is like to be up against it. An advocate whose career has been busy with accident victims, he takes on big insurance companies and their damages — sometimes record sums. But just as he was reaching the peak of his profession in the 1980s, illness struck and he lost his voice, a potentially disastrous blow for any advocate.

Mr Brennan fought to regain something of a whisper and now his husky croak is his trademark. The croak will be heard often in coming months. This year, as the Bar moves through the final stages of its slow metamorphosis into a modern shape for the millennium, it falls to Mr Brennan to lead it through the upheaval.

Completely aside, he is well suited as successor to Heather Hauen, QC, as Chairman of the Bar Council. Both were State-educated. Mr Brennan, whose antecedents are Irish Roman Catholic, was born in Yorkshire. His parents ran a pub in Bradford and his family had no connection with the law. He is a long way from the old image of the upper-crust lawyer.

Mr Brennan told the Bar Council last month that in 1999 "our profession will face challenges as great as any in the past". The reasons are threefold: the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, is committed to legal reform in his Access to Justice Bill; clients are more pressing and cost-conscious; and consumers expect quality.

The Bar, he says, has an abundance of talent, brainpower and energy. "It is therefore my firm belief that we must approach change with confidence and not timidity, change with confidence and not timidity, nor negative reaction." Mr Brennan is not short in the positive energy stakes. A Bar source says: "He wants everything done yesterday. He's very action-oriented. And he can be a bit waspish."

His background is in the North, outside Oxford or the inner circles of the Bar in

which have dogged the past decade — are over. He comments: "I accept that the Government is determined to make these changes." Instead, he will focus on the Government's plans for increased state regulation of the profession. This, he believes, presents the biggest threat the profession has known. "It is wrong that the Government should have the sole power to determine who should prosecute, who should defend, who shall appear in court and how cases shall be paid for."

All this was being done, he says, with no statutory objectives as to how the new legal aid funding would be awarded. "Under the Bill, the Lord Chancellor is creating a huge amount of executive power, with no apparent means of testing it by judicial review." The Bar, with help from some of the judges, will fight hard to give judges a vote (with the Lord Chancellor) over such matters as rights of audience and rules of the profession. Mr Brennan says: "Why should Parliament have power to regulate the rules of the profession when MPs themselves need to be regulated by a Parliamentary Commissioner?"

Mr Brennan speaks of his cases with passion. "When I won £3 million in damages for a brain-damaged child [as he did recently for Helen Edwards, a teenager brain-damaged when aged five in an operation to remove a birthmark], they need every penny of it... and the Legal Aid Board recovers all its costs."

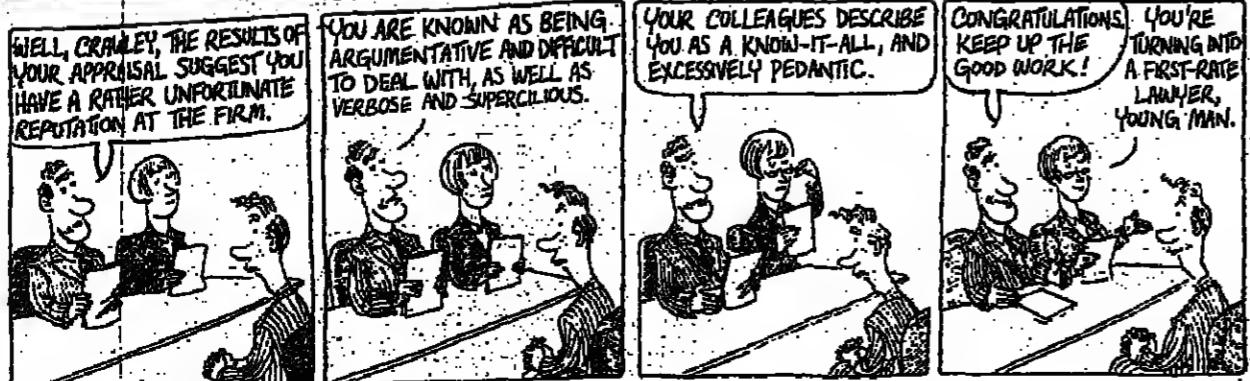
But he is realistic about the Government's reforms and chooses his battles carefully. The fight over extending rights of audience — the so-called Bar Wars,

and so do we. But we want it to keep up with us."

More difficult may be ensuring that the older rank and file keep up. But Mr Brennan can exhibit great charm. As one Bar source put it: "He will be showing them the medicine, and they won't like it. But they are going to have to take it."

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

Steuart & Francis



Misuse of funds: civil servants who slip up

A new law is needed to control officials who transgress but a high degree of culpability must be established

When should elected councillors and paid officials be held criminally liable for their acts? At present, there is a vague and antiquated common law offence of misconduct in public office, which has an ill-defined and uncertain threshold for criminal liability, and which depends mainly on a series of very ancient cases.

Under the present law elected local councillors and paid officials of local government are also liable to a surcharge if they misuse their official positions. In early 1997, for example, the High Court ordered Dame Shirley Porter and another councillor to pay £27,023.376 to Westminster council on the basis that they had, "by wilful misconduct", caused a loss to the council of that amount, a decision which they are now challenging.

The surcharge remedy was looked at by the Committee on Standards in Public Life under Lord Nolan which produced a report in July 1997 recommending that consideration be given to the introduction of a statutory offence of misuse of public office, and asking for comments.

The standards committee drew attention to the strong views held in some quarters that whereas elected local councillors and paid officials of local government may be liable to a penalty surcharge in the event of losses to the taxpayer, no such penalty applies in any other area of public life. The surcharge remedy cannot be applied, for example, to government ministers, to civil servants, or to board members or officers of appointed bodies. The standards committee accepted this complaint, explaining that "no convincing reasons — indeed, no reasons at all — other than the accident of history have been put to us to justify this distinction". The committee was also concerned that a councillor or officer was at risk of being held liable for the entire loss in the case of relatively minor pieces of misconduct, but might not be made liable for much more serious misconduct that had not led to any loss.

In the Westminster case, the Divisional Court remarked that it was unsurprising that the committee had commented adversely on the fact that the auditor had acted as investigator, prosecutor and judge. The standards committee considered that the surcharge was a "wholly inappropriate procedure" and said that it "would not wish to extend or retain it". It believed that a new statutory offence should be defined in such a way as to reflect the common law offence of misconduct in public office and it asked for views on the proposals.

The committee concluded its paper by stating that it would be best if consideration of the details of how the legislation might be best framed were carried for

ward consultation with the Law Commissioner responsible for criminal law matters. This suggestion was accepted and it has been taken forward in this way, rather than as a conventional Law Commission project, and a new statutory offence has been proposed. It is being considered by an inter-departmental working group and a decision will be made by ministers on whether to take it forward and how to do so.

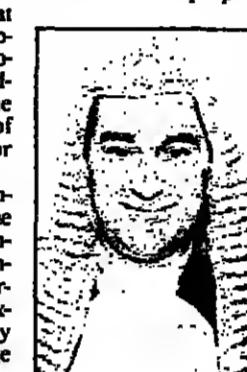
As a result of the helpful and thoughtful responses to the committee's paper, the suggestion is that there should be a new offence of misuse of public office for officials. Others are to decide precisely who will be bound by it.

The proposed offence would be based on an improper exercise of, or improper omission to, exercise a duty or power, and the threshold of liability would be set at a high level. Clearly, an act should be considered an offence only where a high degree of culpability has been established. To be convicted of the offence, a defendant would either have performed an unlawful act or made an omission which was improper according to the standards of any reasonable and honest holder of the defendant's office, as he or she was aware. Mere negligence or gross negligence, as opposed to knowing or conscious wrongdoing, simply would not suffice.

There is a very clear risk that an offence of this sort could be used for political purposes. At present, a private prosecution can be brought for the existing offence of misconduct in public office. Thus, under the present law, a member of the opposition on a local council could bring a private prosecution against, say, the council leader, just before an important election.

Clearly, the council leader's reputation and prospects could be seriously damaged by the mere fact that such a prosecution had been brought; and even if the case were subsequently dismissed after the election, much harm might have been done in the meantime.

It seems appropriate, then, that no prosecutions for the new offence should be permitted to be brought without the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions. This would also have the advantage that the DPP would have to bear in mind the public interest tests, which would require factors in favour of and against prosecution to be weighed up carefully and fairly. The result would be that the fear that prosecutions might be brought for minor and technical matters could be met.



STEPHEN
SILBER, QC

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PRIVATE PRACTICE

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Know-How to £60K
London: Several firms seek lawyers 3PQE+ to handle precedents, marketing and information dissemination in corporate; litigation; property; pensions; tax; banking.

Property to £60K
City: Niche firm with outstanding client base; now handling a number of high profile projects; seeks high calibre senior lawyer ideally with portfolio following to join busy team.

Insurance to £60K
London: Two firms seek insurance/insurance litigators 1-2PQE. Ideally, applicants will have a solid insurance/insurance background and be technically skilled.

Litigation to £60K
Birmingham: Name firm seeks general business litigator 3-4PQE to handle mix of work encompassing property, contractual and insolvency matters. City/equivalent experience essential.

Co/Generalised to £60K
Birmingham: Large firm with reputation for staff training, seeks general co/co lawyer with good background who is perhaps seeking City style work in a more relaxed working environment.

Banking to £50K+base
City: International bank seeks junior lawyer 2-3PQE to handle broad based banking work with the emphasis on secured lending. Must have solid banking background

M&A to £45K
City: Fast growing international concern seeks dynamic lawyer 2-4PQE to handle a varied workload with an emphasis on IT/commercial work. Languages on asset.

Commerical to £45K
City: Niche firm with outstanding client base; now handling a number of high profile projects; seeks high calibre senior lawyer ideally with portfolio following to join busy team.

Corporate to £45K+base
City: Well established legal dept seeks senior lawyer to handle high profile commercial work with an emphasis on international matters. City background essential

M&A to £45K+base
London: Blue chip co seeks lawyer 3-4PQE to join established team.

Banking to £45K+base
City: Highly profitable co seeks lawyer 3-4PQE to join established team.

Corporate to £45K+base
City: Highly successful US group seeks top of the range City lawyer 3PQE+ with banking, capital markets or corporate finance experience to handle a broad range of work.

Corporate to £100K+base
City: Well established legal dept seeks senior lawyer to handle high profile commercial work with an emphasis on international matters. City background essential

M&A to £45K+base
City: Senior legal advisor with experience of internet issues and contract law together with an understanding of the use of trade marks, sought by name US company.

Banking to £45K+base
London: Blue chip co seeks lawyer 3-4PQE to join established team.

Banking to £45K+base
City: On-going and pragmatic lawyer 3PQE+ as first legal advisor.

Banking to £45K+base
City: Knowledge of SFA rules desirable. Litigation/commercial skills essential.

Banking to £45K+base
London: Major co has new role for lawyer 2-3PQE with asset finance and co/commercial experience to be responsible for finance documentation. Presentation skills essential.

Banking to £45K+base
London: Highly profitable co seeks lawyer 3-4PQE to join established team.

Banking to £45K+base
City: Highly successful US group seeks top of the range City lawyer 3PQE+ with banking, capital markets or corporate finance experience to handle a broad range of work.



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Salary: Circa £35,000 plus benefits package

For further information, please write to Mrs J. Brewer, Personnel Manager, British Olympic Association, 1 Wandsworth Plain London SW18 1EH. Fax No. 0181 871 9104.

Applicants will be asked to submit a CV, together with the names and addresses of two referees.

Closing date for applications: Monday 18th January 1999

holiday

Corporate/Commercial Lawyer

3-5 Years' PQE Germany

L&C Steinmuller GmbH is in the business of constructing international power stations and environmental plants worldwide. At 125 years old the Company last year enjoyed one of the most successful years of its history with a turnover of DM 1.92 billion. The company is European-based but has contacts and experience in growth markets such as the Far East, South Africa and Latin America. Deutsche Babcock AG will take over the majority of Steinmuller in 1999 and merge its own relevant activities with those of the company.

Anticipating continued development of energy and environmental markets across the world, Babcock and Steinmuller are seeking to make an important new appointment at the future joint headquarters - based in Oberhausen.

The Individual

You will be a corporate/commercial lawyer with 3-5 years' UK PQE and strong international experience, likely to have been gained in a City firm. Projects experience would be advantageous but it is not a pre-requisite. You will be an ambitious lawyer with a commercial approach and hands-on experience with reasonable written and spoken German language skills, plus English as your working language. An additional European language would be useful, preferably Spanish, but this is not essential.

Babcock and Steinmuller began by establishing a presence and client base across Germany. Responding to the demand in market prices for globalisation, a number of foreign subsidiaries and joint ventures have been set up. Through the quality and growth of its core business Babcock and Steinmuller consider Europe the gateway through which the company will launch into the global market of the future.

This is a fantastic opportunity to sharpen your skillset, joining a company at a turning point in its history. In addition to a competitive salary and benefits package, plus relocation assistance, you will receive intensive foreign language training and grooming for leadership.

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BBC

IT Lawyer

Commercial Legal Department

Legal Adviser's Division

Fixed-term contract, Based West London.

The BBC has recently formed a Technology Directorate which is designed to harness and co-ordinate all the BBC's technology requirements in an IT-driven environment. It is vital for the BBC, as for other complex organisations, that such requirements are underpinned by robust contracts. The BBC's Commercial Legal Department, which is one of five specialist legal departments within the Legal Adviser's Division and which, amongst other functions, provides legal advice to the Technology Directorate, is now seeking a qualified lawyer with a minimum of 3-4 years' PQE to join its team, initially on a one-year fixed term contract.

The principal objective of the role will be to provide IT contract support to the senior lawyer in the department responsible for IT work. It will involve negotiation and drafting of IT contracts in all their guises, quality assuring external provision of legal advice, being the first point of contact on IT contract queries from other BBC directorates, advising on Y2K and similar event driven issues, and advising on the latest developments in IT law.

You will have extensive IT experience, an understanding of the commercial environment surrounding IT projects, be used to working on your own initiative - often under time pressure - and as part of a team. Excellent negotiation and interpersonal skills will be essential. A good track record in major IT projects would be an advantage.

For further details and an application form, contact BBC Recruitment Services (quote ref. 30363/T) Tel: 0181-740 0005. Minicom: 0181-225 9878. Postcard: PO Box 7000, London W12 8GJ. E-mail: recruit@bbc.co.uk Online: www.bbc.co.uk/jobs/30363.shtml Closes: January 18th.

BBC

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THE KEY ISSUE

How

Holidays: risks of the trade

British tour operators must be regulated, says Stephanie Trotter

This is the time of year when we dream of holidays in the sun. But the killing of tourists in Yemen last week has cast a brutal shadow on the notion of white sand, tropical seas and palm trees. Should holidaymakers take responsibility for choosing dangerous destinations? Does the fact that British tour operators organise holidays imply that they are safe? In the case of Yemen, was it enough that a warning had been issued of a high risk of kidnapping (although until then nobody had been killed)?

If we leave aside the tricky question of a possible cause of action against the Yemeni Government for alleged failure to pass on a message that British nationals were to be targeted, could the Foreign Office be sued if it acted negligently? The Crown Proceedings Act 1947, Section 2, allows actions to be brought in court, but there is no apparent evidence of negligence.

Nev Johnson of the Foreign Office says: "The Foreign Office issues advice. We cannot actually stop people from travelling, but we will word it as strongly as possible. In Chechnya, for example, we say, 'Don't go, in any circumstances.' With Florida, we state that British tourists have been targeted for muggings there, but it is the only America state where we give advice."

"We never get involved with insurance. The prime information we use comes from our posts overseas. They advise us about how and when advice should be changed, and then we look at it in the broader perspective."

Package tours give the traveller a sense of security, the feeling that 'everything has been checked out, plus



A beach resort may look like the answer to your wish for a relaxing holiday. But has your tour operator discovered any potential pitfalls?

the added assurance of a company representative being on hand if things go wrong. However, on a Thomson holiday in Egypt, the tour representative was blamed by a holidaymaker, Sheryl Scarisbrick, who was seriously injured when she walked into a glass balcony door. She claimed that the rep failed to help her.

Clive Garner, a partner in Irwin Mitchell of Birmingham, which specialises in foreign illness and accident claims, says: "There has been a large increase in the past two years of accident claims against a wide range of tour operators."

"The largest group actions claim of its kind that we are involved with arises from illness among 600 people at an hotel in Majorca."

"More people are travelling abroad now, increasing rapidly on all-inclusive holidays, and tour operators are going to more exotic locations,

which increases the risk of illness if the infrastructure of the country is not developed, as is the situation in the Dominican Republic, there is an increased risk."

Mr Garner believes that consumers are more aware of their rights now and are more alert to the need to gather evidence and instruct specialists solicitors rather than pursuing claims on their own. "What has traditionally happened," he adds, "is that people who have suffered quite serious illness have been paid off with ludicrously low levels of compensation. They have accepted low amounts because they have not been advised as to what the courts are likely to award."

Future holidaymakers should know that the arbitration service, run by the Association of British Travel Agents, excludes personal injuries. The Package Travel Regulations 1992 enable holidaymakers to sue the tour operator for breach of the holiday contract, leaving the tour operator to recover against suppliers abroad —

are being processed or initiated. Will the holiday industry survive this level of attrition? Will lawyers continue to profit from these sad cases?

The easiest remedy is, to stop obvious dangers. For example, tour companies could select safer hotels, by cutting out accommodation with locked or blocked fire exits.

If rigorous selection can reduce risk, an independent holiday safety body should be set up to monitor holidays. Such a body could also advise consumers, recommend experts, operate a constant emergency helpline, investigate complaints ("no win, no fee") and the proliferation of video cameras, possibly explain the recent increase in litigation.

Brenda Wall of Holiday Travel Watch claims that about £60 million in compensation was paid out last year, and that many more claims

such as hoteliers. The combination of these regulations, which came into force six years ago, conditional fees ("no win, no fee") and the proliferation of video cameras, possibly explain the recent increase in litigation.

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An independent body could advise consumers and recommend experts

Homing in on a new lease of life

Complaints persist about poorly managed flats, says James Driscoll

The law governing leases of flats and houses needs fundamental overhaul and, indeed, one was recommended by the Law Commission in its report on commonhold. But despite legislative reforms from 1985 to the Housing Act 1996 (the last attempt), complaints persist about poorly managed flats. The Government has published a consultation paper, *Residential Leasehold Reform in England and Wales*. Commonhold will be the subject of more consultation. Meanwhile, views are sought on other legislative changes to the leasehold system.

A convincing case is made for

reforming the qualification rules for a flat-owner's collective right to acquire the freehold: flat-owners

living over shops, restaurants or other business premises

will be able to enfranchise if the non-residential floor area of

the building does not exceed 25 per cent (10 per cent at present); the resident test will

become easier (half

of the acquiring flat-owners will need to

be resident when giving notice

to be the freehold); and the minimum proportion of the enfranchising group will be one half, not two thirds.

Though these recommendations may make it easier to enfranchise, they will not surmount many of the practical hurdles revealed in research (*The Impact of Leasehold Reform*) commissioned last year by the Government. Take costs: flat-owners have little effective control over what they have to pay the current freeholder for professional costs — the paper rejects scale fees but welcomes suggestions. What about dispute settlement? Switching disputes from the county court to the Lease-

hold Valuation Tribunal has led

to complaints about long delays

and there are also complaints of

freeholders taking further ap-

peals to the lands tribunal to

press flat-owners to settle. The

paper's arguments for simplifying

valuations may reduce de-

lays, but it says little on the

complexities of the statutory pro-

cedures. Why, for example, should

an acquiring flat-owner have to

make a county court application

if the freeholder fails to respond?

Without other changes, enfran-

chisement will remain an expen-

se, complex option for many

flat-owners, which a well-re-

sourced landlord will

continue to frustrate.

The Government's

research also found that the main motiva-

tion for flat-owners

wanting to enfranchise

is dissatisfaction

with the management

of their block.

If implemented,

the proposed new

right for flat-owners

to take over the man-

agement of the block

is the paper's most

radical proposal. The

procedures will oper-

ate in much the same way as en-

franchisement: no fault on the

part of the landlord (or any exist-

ing managing agent will have

to be proved and the right can be

exercised without application to

a court or tribunal.

This consultation paper will

not be the only consultation ex-

ercise before draft legislation.

Separate consultations will be

held on how to make flat-own-

ers more aware of their rights

and liabilities before purchas-

ing. We can only hope that the

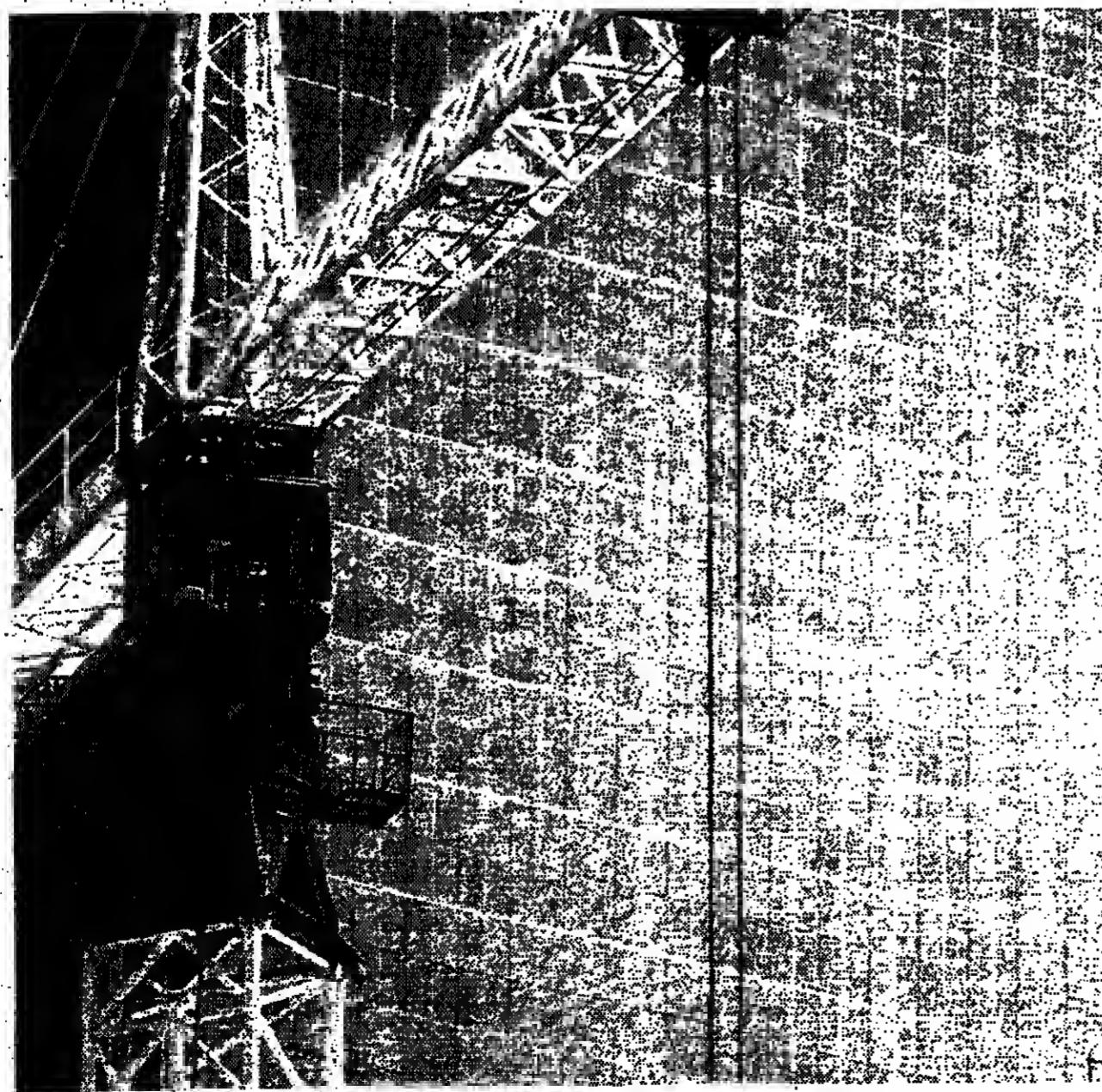
Government will find the legis-

lative time for further reforms.

• The author is Professor of Law at South Bank University, London, and a consultant solicitor with Trowers & Hamlins.

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CLIFFORD CHANCE

RUGBY UNION

Northampton eye opportunity to hit new heights

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NORTHAMPTON will thank no one for pointing out that victory over London Irish at Franklin's Gardens this evening will place them at the head of English league rugby, an eminence they have never occupied before. First, because the Irish are among the most dangerous floaters in the first division and second because it only emphasises Northampton's lack of achievement since league rugby was introduced in 1987.

Yet this season they have found a consistency in the Allied Dunbar Premiership that has eluded them before, although in 1992 they made a brave assault on the title but ended behind Bath and Orrell.

There remains a lengthy race to be run and an uncertain future that may become clearer after scheduled meetings today between the Rugby Football Union and representatives of English First-Division Rugby, and Thursday, when the Welsh Rugby Union hopes to resolve the dispute

with Cardiff and Swansea. For the time being, however, Northampton are smelling of roses even though Matt Dawson, their England scrum half, seems likely to be absent this evening.

Dawson suffered a "dead leg" in the win over Sale at the weekend and Jim Bramhall has been added to the squad, though Dominic Malone would play at No 9 in Dawson's absence. Ironically, when Northampton won at London Irish in October, it was their other England half

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pa
Leicester	14	11	0	3	423	239	22
Northampton	14	11	0	3	401	239	22
Saracens	15	10	0	5	461	321	20
Wasps	15	9	0	6	434	296	18
Harlequins	14	9	0	5	373	346	18
Newcastle	14	9	0	5	367	346	18
Gloucester	15	8	0	7	322	317	17
London Irish	15	8	0	7	351	361	14
Bath	14	7	0	7	345	287	14
Warrington	15	7	0	8	346	342	10
Sale	15	5	0	10	346	434	10
London Stoc	14	4	0	10	262	352	10
Bedford	15	2	0	13	307	492	4
W Hartlepool	15	2	0	13	227	556	4

Newcastle prepare for loss of Ryan

By DAVID HANDS

NEWCASTLE yesterday acknowledged the imminent departure to Bristol of Dean Ryan, their Premiership-winning captain last season. Bristol will welcome him later this week but Rob Andrew, director of rugby at Newcastle, drew a line under the ten-year relationship that he has enjoyed with Ryan, first at Wasps, then in the North East.

"I am very disappointed to see Dean leave the management team and I tried hard to keep him here," Andrew said. "However, I respect his ambitions and wish him every success." Newcastle remain tight-lipped, though, on speculation that Gareth Archer, their England lock, could

follow Ryan when his contract ends.

Ryan's new position will be more clearly defined after an assessment of a neck injury that will determine whether he can play as well as coach.

"I want to develop my career and Bristol have offered me an opportunity to continue playing as well as a coaching-management role," Ryan said.

Jason Barrell, the prop who joined Llanelli from Waikato less than two months ago, is on his way back to New Zealand after playing only four games. He is to join Auckland Blues, who will be without Olo Brown, the injured All Blacks tight-head prop, for the Super 12 tournament this year.

Although Bath supporters are suffering, Sale's would give just as much for a morale-boosting win. Their resurfaced pack sees Simon Alavalui back at lock and Alex Sanderston, the younger of the brothers, at flanker, while Steve Diamond hooks rest that Phil Greening can rest a damaged ankle.

The Packers, beaten by the Denver Broncos in the Super Bowl last season, had been the clear favourites to progress beyond the second of the National Football Conference (NFC) wild-card games to a meeting with the Atlanta Falcons that would have moved them to within a step of another appearance in the end-of-season finale in Miami on the last day of this month.

It seemed as though they had achieved their goal when a touchdown pass from Brett Favre to Antonio Freeman took them into a 27-23 lead with less than two minutes remaining. But then Steve Young, the veteran quarterback who has been eclipsed

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control. Young moved San Francisco 76 yards towards Packers territory in nine plays before rifled a pinpoint pass to Terrell Owens with three seconds remaining to give the 49ers a 30-27 victory.

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RACING: BROADSHEET AIMED FOR CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL START

Plans afoot to launch daily racing paper

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

A NEW daily racing paper, called *The Racing Herald*, could be on the streets in time for the Cheltenham Festival after nine months of behind-the-scenes negotiations with potential financial backers.

The broadsheet, with sections devoted to racing, sports betting and greyhounds, would be aimed very much at the punter — including the burgeoning sports betting sector — rather than the inner machinations of the racing industry. "Unlike the Post, the Herald is unlikely to devote the front page to the latest thoughts of Peter Savill, the British Horseracing Board chairman," one source said. "It would cover the things that the industry needs to know, but be based on information for the punter."

Although there has been a consensus of thought that racing can only sustain one daily newspaper, economies in production costs have convinced those involved that a second publication is a viable proposition. The initial circulation target would soon begin to build up and a small, but significant, change is being made to one of the meeting's most popular rates.

The Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Chase, for amateur riders, and the William Hill National Hunt Chase are both run over an extended three days.

With three separate groups of would-be investors at an advanced stage and have produced a verbal agreement. Lawyers and accountants are now poring over the fine detail and a decision is imminent. "We have reached a crucial stage," one insider said.

Mike Gallemore, a former editor of *The Sporting Life*, is the driving force behind the project and would edit the title. A 10-strong editorial team is being lined up, including well-known racing journalists such as Geoff Lester, Tim Richards, George Ennor, Jon Freeman, Colin Fleetwood-Jones and Mike Cattermole.

The *Racing Post* has enjoyed a monopoly since it was



Lester joining new team

sold by Sheikh Mohammed for £1 to Mirror Group, who promptly closed down the *Life*. Various plans to relaunch the *Life* as a sports paper have so far come to nothing.

With entries for the Cheltenham Gold Cup and Queen Mother Champion Chase closing tomorrow, festival fever will soon begin to build up and a small, but significant, change is being made to one of the meeting's most popular rates.

The Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Chase, for amateur riders, and the William Hill National Hunt Chase are both run over an extended three days.

tion's 8,000 betting shops — and spell the beginning of the end for the Queen Mother's favourite paper.

Significantly, the Herald would be aimed very much at the punter — including the burgeoning sports betting sector — rather than the inner machinations of the racing industry. "Unlike the Post, the Herald is unlikely to devote the front page to the latest thoughts of Peter Savill, the British Horseracing Board chairman," one source said. "It would cover the things that the industry needs to know, but be based on information for the punter."

If the project gets off the ground, the first copies of the Herald, costing £1, would be on sale during the week before the Cheltenham Festival to alert potential readers to its existence in time for the biggest National Hunt meeting of the year.

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RICHARD EVANS

With three separate groups of would-be investors at an advanced stage and have produced a verbal agreement. Lawyers and accountants are now poring over the fine detail and a decision is imminent. "We have reached a crucial stage," one insider said.

Mike Gallemore, a former editor of *The Sporting Life*, is the driving force behind the project and would edit the title. A 10-strong editorial team is being lined up, including well-known racing journalists such as Geoff Lester, Tim Richards, George Ennor, Jon Freeman, Colin Fleetwood-Jones and Mike Cattermole.

The *Racing Post* has enjoyed a monopoly since it was

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright
suggests the best value in
the ante-post market

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

ATHOCAT 1000-10000
IMPETUS DREAM 1000-10000
STANLEY NATIVE 1000-10000
MYTON GOLD 1000-10000
GEM SALT 1000-10000
SNOW DRAGON 1000-10000
GENEROUS 1000-10000
BLACK QUEEN 1000-10000
SAWAS 1000 1000-10000
SHAMANHAI 1000-10000
TOTAL SUCCESS 1000-10000
SADLER'S REVENGE 1000-10000

WITH the top 11 horses in the original weights having been withdrawn at yesterday's five-day acceptance stage, the weights have gone up by 15lb leaving the Philip Hobbs-trained *Polar Prospect* to shoulder top weight of 12st 12lb.

British raiders do not have a good record in the Ludlow, with Native Tribe, winner two years ago, the only success since 1987. *Polar Prospect's* chance has not been enhanced by the withdrawal, while Mary Revelry's Once More For Luck is now a 15lb outsider. Of the leading British horses, Hobbs' Sadler's Re却ve is the only one to have been beaten in the last two meetings.

The track is very wet, but we could have today.

He added: "It all depends on the amount of rain we get between now and Wednesday, and there is more rain forecast. At the moment, there is no inspection planned."

The prospects are much brighter for Musselburgh, tomorrow's other scheduled National Hunt meeting. There are no problems with waterlogging, but two degrees of frost is forecast tonight and the stewards may be forced to hold an inspection.

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Rain threat to Lingfield

THE turf meeting at Lingfield tomorrow is under threat from the weather. Andy Waitt, head groundsman at the Surrey course, said yesterday: "The track is very wet, but we could have today."

He added: "It all depends on the amount of rain we get between now and Wednesday, and there is more rain forecast. At the moment, there is no inspection planned."

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An unhealthy obsession with sex for sale

So guess what Santa bought television executives for Christmas? Yes, another year's supply of prostitutes for the larder, to be used as required: to season all those television dishes that lack a bit of, well, oomph. To reassure those of you who feared there wasn't a hooker left in Britain who hadn't yet been filming wrapping nappies around grown men's bottoms, or grassing them up to the police so that they can be re-educated in Leeds's new "Johns' School". BBC1's new docusero, *Paddington Green*, launched straight into the ups and downs — so to speak — of Jackie McAlpine's life as a transsexual prostitute in West London.

If television reflects something about us and our lives, then the number of hookers on television would suggest that, statistically, in the real world they must account for at least one in four women. There are so many prostitutes on

television today that it's a wonder they're not already making enough money from television appearances to enable them to retire from the game altogether, with their pimps turning into theatrical agents instead. (She does a quick interview for fifty quid: a full document, no rush, is £30 — OK guv?)

The producers of this series are hoping that Jackie will be one of the characters (along with Claude and Claudia Agius, an argumentative father-and-daughter team who run a scooter shop on Edgware Road, and Mr Gilbert, who runs a nearby wig shop) whom we will be getting to know much better in the weeks to come. You might say, here, "not in the biblical sense", but the evidence indicates that publicity gleaned from appearing in docusero invariably increases custom, even when — as in the case of Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel — the exposure made the staff in their own neighbourhood. It's village-green television: *EastEnders*

coming as the Addams family. Jackie even showed us exactly where she stands when touting for business, thereby making an appearance on the *Paddington Green* series a far more reliable advertising shop window than sticking a card up in a telephone kiosk.

But the odder thing about *Paddington Green* is that it's not a ploy into an industry; it's not aiming to give you an insight into life behind the scenes at a hotel, or at an airport, or a cruise ship, or as a clammer. Just as there are videos which show only goldfish for people who'd like a pet but can't be bothered with the fuss of scooping out the dead goldfish every two days and buying a new one, *Paddington Green* is television for people who can't be bothered to go out and pick up idle chit-chat from the local shopkeepers in their own neighbourhood. It's village-green television: *EastEnders*

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

without the bother of a script.

More prostitution on ITV in its new drama series, *The Vice*. Maybe one is in four is an underestimate: perhaps it's more like one in two women who are on the game, which would imply that almost everyone in the country is a regular punter. Pretty soon there'll be so many hookers on the box that we'll have to go out and hang around on dark street corners in order to

avoid encountering a prostitute.

Ken Stott, who leads the cast as Inspector Pat Chappell of the Met's vice unit, is always riveting to watch, and not just because he has one of those faces like the "before" photo in plastic surgery ads. Struan Rodger is also oddly magnetic as the heartless and violent pimp. The script is faced with all the usual knowing fruits of research around the backstreets of Soho, presumably to justify to the taxman the entries on the production budget for visits to massage parlours. But it's certainly not a wham-bam-thank-you-mum production. If you like your foreplay slow, then *The Vice* moves at your kind of pace. It was sort of enjoyable, but also somehow slightly unsatisfying — perhaps this was some kind of metaphor.

In BBC2's intelligent *Horizon Special — Longitude*, Patrick Malahide recreated scenes from the life of John Harrison, a Lincoln-

shire carpenter, and the extraordinary story of his quest to solve the technological problem of longitude and thereby to save the lives of sailors whose ships kept crashing against rocks — extraordinary because the art of navigation, which spanned decades, and which baffled some of the world's greatest minds, and which seemed so insoluble that in 1714, Parliament offered a reward of £20,000 (equivalent to £6 million today) to whoever could find longitude at sea, seemed to involve *no prostitutes whatsoever*.

Oliver Walston, a 57-year-old cereal farmer from Cambridgeshire who claims to have been "born with a silver spoon in just about every orifice", gets a £180,000 cheque from Brussels each Christmas, which he finds difficult. In *Against The Grain* (BBC2), a new four-part squint at

British farming, he made a convincing case against the subsidies enshrined in the European Union's common agricultural policy, which pays farmers not to farm. While this at first seemed a cogent argument against such subsidies, it also seemed to be a powerful argument for a new subsidy under which EU officials would be paid not to draft demented new laws.

Walston doesn't dispute that many small farmers in Britain are in trouble, but turning them into "subsidy junkies" is not the solution. He wants EU subsidies to be phased out over a five-year period, after which farmers would face the same free-market rewards and penalties as people who run small shops, or small hairdressing salons, and who get no subsidy from Brussels: because while subsidies may line the farmers' wallets, the consumer gets screwed. See? I knew there just had to be a sexual angle somewhere.

BBC1

- 8.00am *Business Breakfast* (83650)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (83679)
- 9.00 *Kilroy* (1) (897339)
- 9.45 *The Vanessa Show* (1) (5349259)
- 10.55 *News: Weather* (1) (720853)
- 11.00 *Reel Rooms* (721823)
- 11.25 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (7) (795380)
- 11.55 *News: Weather* (1) (1411765)
- 12.00pm *Call My Bluff* (82178)
- 12.30 *Battersea Dogs' Home* (22222)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News; *Weather* (1) (89768)
- 1.30 *Regional News: Weather* (5690938)
- 1.40 *Neighbours*: Harold teaches Paul the facts of life (1) (8569105)
- 2.05 *Instore*: The Chef tackles a resentful alternative theatre group following the death of an actress in suspicious circumstances (1) (972679)
- 2.55 *Going for a Song* (8867834)
- 3.20 *The Weather Show*: Stories about the weather (1) (228785)
- 3.25 *Children's BBC: Playdays* (1) (50714)
- 3.45 *The Enchanted Land*: The Adventures of the Wishing Chair (3374037) 3.55 *Hubbub* (7070818) 4.18 *Chimpunks Go to the Movies* (6334899)
- 4.35 *The Really Wild Show* (192421)
- 5.04 *Newsworld* (5761650) 5.10 *See How They Run* (8801105)
- 5.38 *Neighbours* (1) (136291)
- 6.00 *Six O'Clock News: Weather* (1) (969)
- 6.30 *Regional News: Magazine* (221)
- 7.00 *Holiday Special*: 30th anniversary edition from Australia. Jill Dando visits venues for the Sydney Olympic Games, and Kevin Woodford goes *leisure-hopping* off the Queensland coast (1) (1035)
- 7.30 *EastEnders*: The Mitchell family close ranks (1) (105)
- 8.00 *Weight of the Nation*: Dale Winton speaks on the BBC's Fighting Fat, Fighting Fit campaign, with practical advice from the fit-buster team on losing weight without suffering the agony of dieting (1) (3747)
- 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather* (1) (8327)
- 9.30 *Paddington Green*: A transsexual vice girl is forced back on the game by a backlog of lines for soliciting — but rather than pay up, she decides to invest in new clothes to put the punters. Meanwhile, sate-cracker Jason has relationship problems (1) (52036)
- 10.00 *The New Year Storms* — A *999 Special*: The freak storms that greeted 1998 (1) (221671)
- 10.40 *Crystal Balls*: Why look at past prophets? (1) (113630)
- 11.20 *Seduced by Evil* (1994): Premieres Supernatural tale, starring Suzanne Somers as a reporter who interviews a mysterious named, unaware that he is actually a shape-shifting magician. With James B. Sikking. Directed by William A. Whaley (1) (313306)
- 12.45 *Death of a Cheerleader* (1994): Fact-based drama about two teenage girls whose many sins set them on a fatal collision course. Tori Spelling and Kelle Martin star. Directed by William A. Graham (1) (6224895)
- 2.10 *Weather* (8624322)
- 2.15 *BBC News 24* (7953598)

BBC2

- 7.00am *Children's BBC: Breakfast Show*: The Little Polar Bear (2340227) 7.05 *Teletubbies* (234124) 7.30 *Yogi's Treasure Hunt* (232721) 7.50 *Blue Peter* (3199476) 8.20 *Tez-Mania* (9167476) 8.40 *Polka Dot Show* (8462256) 8.50 *The Little Polar Bear* (8451143) 9.00 *Cake* (7362414) 9.10 *Phil Silvers Show* (1928103) 9.15 *News: Weather* (1) (1411765)
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HTV

- 5.30am *ITV Morning News* (29940)
- 9.00 *GMTV* (609127)
- 9.25 *Treble* (1) (226940)
- 10.25 *This Morning* (1) (8286125)
- 12.15pm *HTV News and Weather* (1) (8659863)
- 12.30 *HTV Luncheon: News; Weather* (1) (2736)
- 1.00 *Shortland Street* (24834)
- 1.30 *Home and Away*: *Will saves Gypsy* (1) (6629)
- 2.00 *The Jerry Springer Show*: Outrageous American talk show (1) (210865)
- 2.45 *Dale's Supermarket Sweep*: The shopping quiz (1) (52167)
- 3.15 *ITV News Headlines* (1) (226940)
- 3.25 *CTV: Mopstop's Shop* (227476) 3.35 *Rosie and Jim* (870650) 3.50 *The Wombles* (936618) 4.00 *Cow and Chicken* (881852) 4.25 *Mike and Angelo* (778142) 4.50 *How I (9462124)*
- 5.10 *A Country Practice*: Tom is forced to make a decision (5380762)
- 5.40 *ITV Early Evening: News; Weather* (1) (767940)
- 5.55 *HTV Crimestop* (74569)
- 6.00 *Home and Away* (1) (648899)
- 6.25 *WALES: Wales Tonight* (1) (953037)
- 6.30 *WEST: HTV Weather* (348105)
- 6.30 *The West Tonight* (1) (389)
- 7.00 *Emmerdale*: Zak is left holding the baby (1) (6124)
- 7.30 *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*: Big-prize game show (1) (501)
- 8.00 *The Bill*: Deakin and Bouch keep watch on a newly released shipper, hoping he'll lead them straight to the £500,000 ransom he was paid (1) (1143)



Ian Hislop takes a moment to relax during his trip across India (930pm)

- 9.30 *Great Railway Journeys*: New series: Ian Hislop travels from Calcutta to romantic Rajasthan, via the Taj Mahal and the site of a recent nuclear bomb test (16) (1) (836679)
- 10.20 *Trade Secrets*: Pet breeders reveal tricks of the trade (1) (109765)
- 10.30 *Nowtnewt*: Introduced by Gerty Wark (1) (45747)
- 11.13 *Suspended in Time* (1) (386834)
- 11.15 *Derby World Professional Championship*: The second round (903495)
- 11.35 *Weather* (185327)
- 12.00am *The Phil Silvers Show*: Bliko tries to break into TV (1) (59761)
- 12.30 *Closed*

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 12.20-12.30pm *Central News; Weather* (8275211)
- 1.00 *Headliners* (49334)
- 1.30 *The Jerry Springer Show* (9204766)
- 2.15-2.45 *Home and Away* (522303)
- 3.20-3.25 *Central News* (2233353)
- 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (3680762)
- 6.30-7.00 *Central News; Weather* (160698)
- 10.30-10.40 *Central News; Weather* (160698)
- 1.45 *Central Jobfinder '99* (1077877)
- 5.20-5.30 *Asian Eye* (4519877)



Haydn Gwynne stars as a new member of the medical team (9pm)

- 9.00 *Peak Practice*: The rural drama returns for a new series, with Gary Mavens, Adrian Lukis and Haydn Gwynne (1/13) (1) (86795)
- 10.00 *ITV News; Weather* (1) (26143)
- 10.30 *HTV News and Weather* (1) (808699)
- 10.40 **EMERGE**: *Full Frontal in Flip Flops*: A documentary looking at British nudists (1) (563105)
- 11.40 *The China Syndrome* (1979): The controller of a nuclear power plant discovers a potentially disastrous operational flaw — but refuses to report it. Thriller, starring Jane Fonda. Directed by James Bridges (1) (5159327)
- 2.00am *The Haunted Fleabank*: Ed Hall reviews the week's television (18612)
- 2.30 *Highlander*: An immortal吸血鬼 stalks Richie, so MacLeod trains him in self-defence (1) (6357525)
- 3.25 *Wish You Were Here?*: France and Bernadom (1) (63194380)
- 3.55 *Football Extra*: Football League highlights (1) (8444612)
- 4.30 *ITV Nightscene*: Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (1) (56282631)

ITV

- As HTV West except:
- 12.15-12.30pm *Westcountry News; Weather* (9659563)
- 12.27-12.30 *Iluminations* (283230)
- 1.00 *Emmerdale* (24834)
- 1.30 *The Jerry Springer Show* (9204766)
- 2.15-2.45 *Home and Away* (522300)
- 3.20-3.35 *Central News* (2233353)
- 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (3680762)
- 6.30-7.00 *Westcountry News; Weather* (160698)
- 10.30-10.40 *Westcountry News; Weather* (160698)
- 1.30 *Roots to Success* (3886871)
- 5.20-5.30 *Asian Eye* (4519877)

CHANNEL 4

- As HTV West except:
- 12.15-12.30pm *Westcountry News; Weather* (9659563)
- 12.27-12.30 *Iluminations* (283230)
- 1.00 *Emmerdale* (24834)
- 1.30 *The Jerry Springer Show* (9204766)
- 2.15-2.45 *Home and Away* (522300)
- 3.20-3.35 *Central News* (2233353)
- 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (3680762)</

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 38

Owens comes good at the last for San Francisco 49ers

Wiseman's departure signals change

FA prepares for radical restructuring

By MATT DICKINSON

THERE was so much spin-doctored talk of "fresh dawns" and "visions for the millennium" in Lancaster Gate yesterday that it might have been a press conference for new Labour. This halting of a glorious age, though, came from the modernising vanguard of the Football Association, who barely gave Keith Wiseman time to head back to Southampton and obscurity before they launched their reformist agenda.

Wiseman resigned as chairman of the FA at 1.00pm, finally accepting that he had been outflanked by his opponents who regarded him as an ineffectual leader on the domestic, never mind the world, stage. His decision to step down was unanimously accepted by the 91-member FA Council, who will find that they are the next targets for the modernisers after the culling of Wiseman and Graham Kelly, the former chief executive.

Less than four hours after Wiseman's resignation, those who would succeed him were gathered in a hotel describing how the new leader must be a man of integrity and vision if the FA is to be transformed from its cumbersome committee structure into a streamlined business befitting its multi-million-pound turnover.

A working party is already on the verge of publishing a report as to how the full council, with an average age of 64, can be whittled down into an effective unit of a dozen or so. The new chairman may be paid for the first time in the FA's 135-year history.

Who that will be is a question that will not be answered until a vote by the FA Council in June, thereby guaranteeing more than five months of political manoeuvring. Geoff Thompson, the vice-chairman, will head the FA until the sum-

mer and may now prove the front-runner to succeed Wiseman.

As secretary of the Sheffield and Hallamshire County FA, Thompson's support is based in the shires, which still hold 60 per cent of the seats on the full council.

With their influence under increasing threat from the professional game — as represented by Dave Richards, chairman of Sheffield Wednesday, David Sheepshanks, chairman of Ipswich Town, and David Dean, vice-chairman of Arsenal — the counties may engineer Thompson in as chairman to ensure that they have a proper say in the radical changes that are inevitable.

Sheepshanks, by far the most likely alternative to Thompson, will need to use all his Old Etonian charm over the next five months to con-

vince them that he is acting in their best interests rather than those of the leading clubs.

Who will succeed Kelly as chief executive may take even longer to determine. The position will be advertised this week, but Thompson accepted yesterday that it is unlikely that an appointment will be made before the chairmanship is resolved in June.

Whoever becomes chairman and chief executive, they will preside over a revolution at the FA. "Today represents the beginning of a new dawn for the FA," Sheepshanks said, his thoughts echoed by Thompson. "If we can't move in the right direction we will die," Thompson said. "We may have had a hundred or more years of operating on the same lines, but we are now moving into a new millennium and

I have achieved my objective in providing the council with a full explanation of the events which have been the subject of so much publicity," Wiseman said. "I am grateful that they felt able to unanimously record that in accepting my resignation, they wished to make it clear that no aspersions were cast on my integrity or honesty. That means a great deal to me."

With that, Wiseman left and the race to succeed him began. The only declared candidate is Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, whose outspokenness has already ensured the failure of his campaign. "Many of the comments I have seen attributed to him have been a masterpiece of demotivation of FA staff," Frank Pattison, a moderniser from the Durham FA, said.

Wiseman heads back to Southampton after resigning as chairman of the Football Association yesterday

Power vacuum that leaves England looking isolated

Rob Hughes says upheavals have left the FA split and devoid of influence on the international stage

Now, after the resignation last month of the chief executive, Graham Kelly, Lancaster Gate is torn of its two senior executives. And no one is to blame, except the media. They, in Wiseman's parting words, "wildly and wholly inaccurately" reported what was going on behind the scenes.

In truth, Wiseman's inept scheming has left a legacy of an English game lacrimated with division, with Glenn Hoddle vulnerable as national coach. There is virtually open warfare between the men of commerce of the FA Carling Premiership clubs, whose intolerance of rule by amateurs is well documented.

They, and indeed their representatives within the FA, are more intent on the stock market fluctuations of the share price of their clubs than the wider duty Lancaster Gate must have for football at large. The Premiership clubs are no more likely to give the breath of life to those one rung beneath them than countenance a share of football's ever-increasing revenues being spent to insure the welfare of a game played by millions on sports grounds and parks.

As if that is not enough, there is also the internecine fighting even within the FA executive. The maverick Chelsea chairman, Ken Bates, has

been speaking for weeks of his willingness to sweep away slate and the archaic structures within the FA. He fell silent yesterday. Temporarily, no doubt. But David Sheepshanks, the chairman of Ipswich, did his best in a supporting role to speak of unity and a new determination to drive the national game forward.

One almost immediate dilemma is how those temporarily charged with leadership can restore respect for the word of the FA, specifically among the 24 executive members of Fifa, the world governing body. Those members hold the votes for the World Cup in 2006, although if the Fifa president, Sepp Blatter, gets his way there will be biennial World Cups, and with so few countries able to cope with the bloated 64-game finals, England may have less to worry about than we ever dreamt.

It was the misguided efforts of Wiseman, and the limp acquiescence to his methods by Kelly, that brought the pair down. Wiseman, correct in believing that England crucially lacked standing and influence on international committees, made unauthorised payments to the FA of Wales in what he saw as an attempt to get their help in gaining a seat on the Fifa executive. It would be fascinating to hear the response of some members when they, knowing precisely the truth, receive deputations from Lancaster Gate attempting to persuade them that the

word of an English Football Association chairman can, from now on, be trusted without hesitation.

Those of us who hold temporary responsibility," said David Davies, who has replaced Kelly until a successor is found, "know what has to be done and won't be found wanting."

Words are Davies' forte. So

is presentation. The Government may be leaking spin doctors, the FA is promoting them. Davies was educated at

Sheffield University, and his

"temporary" chairman, the

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No 1606

ACROSS
7 Being always 'ill' (12)
9 Intuitive sympathy (7)
10 Services chaplain (5)
11 Ring a croquet target (4)
12 Always given similar role (8)
15 Where Drake played bowls (1589) (8)
17 Free ride (4)
19 Indian police baton (5)
21 In summary (7)
22 Learn to master (3,3,4,2)

SOLUTION TO NO 1605
ACROSS: 1 Army 3 Frame-up 8 Cantata 9 Sibyl 10 Sprat
11 Hampden 13 Diaries 17 Layette 19 Ionic 20 Train
22 Gunwale 23 Hot seat 24 Term
DOWN: 1 Access 2 Main Friday 3 Featherweight 4 Assam
5 Ebb 6 Plyons 7 Tantra 12 Disengage 14 Skinny
15 Flitch 16 Scream 18 Tense 21 Ant

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SPORT

TUESDAY JANUARY 5 1999

TENNIS 42

Henman roars back into action in Doha

No ICC cash to help umpire system

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) is refusing to give financial backing to any programme aimed at improving the third umpire system.

The problem was highlighted during the final Ashes Test between Australia and England at Sydney yesterday when Steve Tait, the third umpire, failed to give Michael Slater, the Australia opener, run out when he appeared to be short of his ground. Slater, on 35 at the time, went on to make 123.

The ICC, however, rejected suggestions that it should pump money into a scheme to set up four fixed cameras level with the wickets at each side of the ground.

"We're not looking to fund it at this stage," Clive Hitchcock, the ICC cricket operations manager, said. "There's a huge cost involved. Some countries are going down that road and providing square-on cameras at each end."

"It's something that we're working on because some countries provide better facilities than others. South Africa have square-on cameras but their project has received private sponsorship. We're looking to see if we can make it standard across the board. But it is the responsibility of the home board to provide camera angles in liaison with the host broadcaster."

Television replays appeared to confirm that Slater was short of his crease after the stumps were broken by Dean Headley's direct hit from deep mid-on. He was given not out because Tait did not have the benefit of a square-on camera but even the Australian opener believes it is time for more cameras to be used to stop similar controversies.

"If you're going to have the third umpire, then get the cameras in place so it's conclusive," Slater said. "If there's a camera on the other side of the ground square-on, there's no doubt you would know one way or the other. The third umpire can only make a judgment on what he sees at the time."

Hitchcock added: "When the third umpire makes his decision, he must be 100 per cent sure that the batsman is out and I'm sure the he applied that in Slater's case."



Ken Bates

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